



Route 7/15 NORWALK

NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2023



*You're
Invited!*

Public Hearing

Date

Wednesday, August
16, 2023

Time

Open House:
6:00PM - 7:00PM

Public Hearing:
7:00PM

Location

Norwalk City Hall
(Community Room)
125 East Avenue,
Norwalk, CT

EA/EIE is Available for Review!

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has published a Joint Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Evaluation (EA/EIE) for the Route 7/15 Norwalk project.

The Joint EA/EIE is now available for public review and comment. The Environmental Assessment (EA) / Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) is a document that is published as part of the environmental documentation process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA).

The Joint EA/EIE was prepared to help CTDOT find a solution for the incomplete connections between Routes 7 and 15. Numerous Public, Stakeholder and Resource Agency Meetings as well as coordination with City of Norwalk officials were held to help identify solutions.

The documents include a detailed evaluation and comparison of Alternatives 21D, 26, and a No-Build or "no action" Alternative. The preferred alternative is 26, which is explained in more detail later in this newsletter. The EA/EIE is a result of public meetings, key stakeholder meetings, public advisory committee (PAC) meetings, agency coordination, City of Norwalk coordination, and Section 106 stakeholder meetings.

The Joint EA/EIE can be found online at the project website and printed copies are available at Norwalk City Hall and the Norwalk Public Library. Members of the public are invited to review and comment on the Joint EA/EIE document during the 45-day Public Comment Period. Written comments may be submitted via mail or email. Oral and written comments may also be provided in person at the public hearing.

How to Comment

EA/EIE Publication

July 18th, 2023

Public Comment Period

July 18th - August 31st, 2023

Attend the Public Hearing on
August 16th

Project Website:

www.7-15norwalk.com/

Email:

comments@7-15Norwalk.com

Mail:

Attn: Kevin Carifa,
Transportation Planning Director
Connecticut Department of
Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131

About the 7/15 Norwalk Project

Project Overview

The 7/15 Norwalk Project is an initiative to provide the missing connections between Route 7 and Route 15 (Merritt Parkway). The Project aims to improve mobility and safety at the Main Avenue and Route 7 interchanges on the Merritt Parkway.

Purpose & Need

The purpose of the Route 7/15 Norwalk Project is to complete and improve connections, safety, and traffic flow between Route 7, Route 15 (Merritt Parkway) and Main Avenue in Norwalk.

The current Route 7 /Route 15 (Merritt Parkway) is a partial interchange. Missing connections include:

- Route 7 North and South to the Merritt Parkway North
- Merritt Parkway South to Route 7 North and South

The missing connections between Routes 7 and 15 cause traffic congestion and delays on Main Avenue

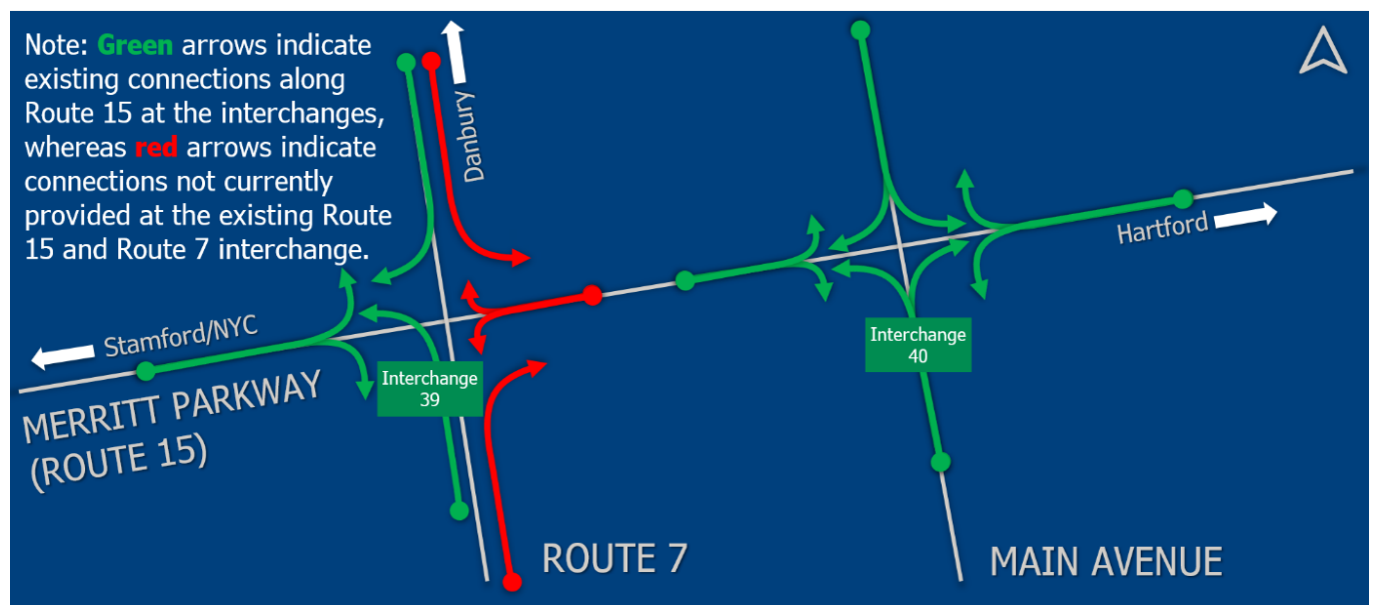
and other local roads. Improving safety is also an important goal of the project.

The needs of the project are:

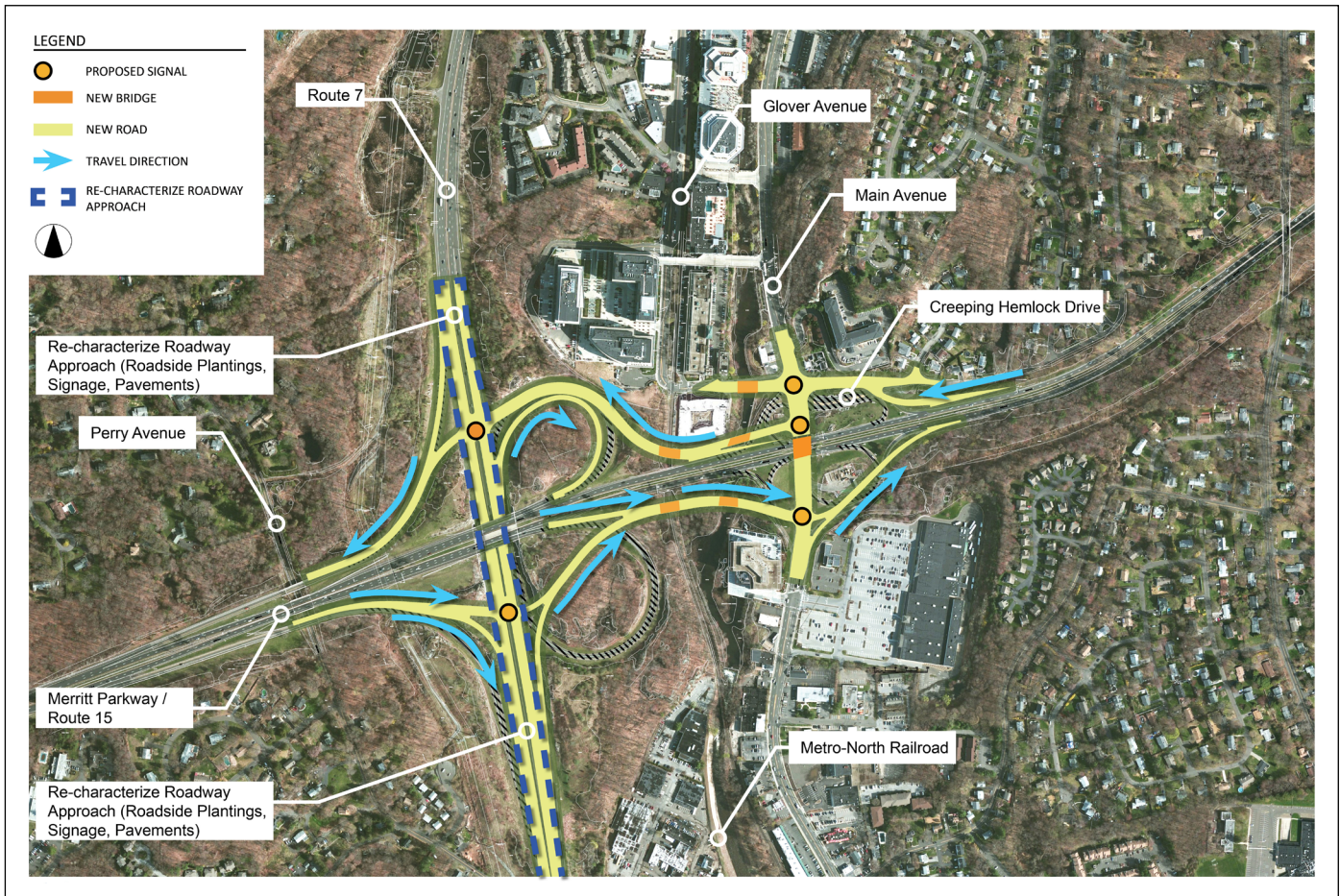
- **Roadway System Linkages:** Complete all connections between Route 7 and 15
- **Safety:** Improve safety for Route 15 traffic and connections to Main Avenue
- **Mobility:** Provide local road network improvements to Main Avenue, Glover Avenue, and Creeping Hemlock Drive

Reviewing Alternatives

Over 20 alternatives were initially considered. Two alternatives passed through a multi-level screening process and were reviewed in greater detail within the environmental process. The two alternatives, 21D and 26, were evaluated to ensure that potential impacts to resources were evaluated and considered alongside the potential project benefits. The process required any potential impact from an alternative be identified so that it can be avoided, minimized, or mitigated to a reasonable extent.



Preferred Alternative: Alternative 26



Overview of Alternative 26

Alternative 26 is the preferred alternative for the Route 7/15 Norwalk Project. After thoughtful and thorough analysis, this alternative best meets the project's Purpose & Need. It is anticipated to improve traffic operations and address safety issues at the Route 15/ Main Avenue interchange. Regarding the Merritt Parkway, Alternative 26 leaves a more compact footprint, enhances natural features, reduces maintenance, and provides fewer structures.

Benefits of Alternative 26



Improves traffic operations



Addresses safety issues



Fewer resource impacts



Fewer visual impacts



Lower cost



Easier to construct





Next Steps

Once the public comment period has concluded, public and stakeholder comments will be documented and addressed in the final environmental documents. The final documents for the project are anticipated to be a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and a Record of Decision (ROD). These documents will conclude the final stages of the NEPA/CEPA process for the project.

Key Dates

-  **EA/EIE Available for Review**
July 18th, 2023
-  **Public Hearing**
August 16th, 2023
-  **Comment Period Ends**
August 31st, 2023

How to submit comments

-  Attend the Public Hearing on August 16, 2023
-  Kevin Carifa, Transportation Planning Director, CTDOT
-  comments@7-15norwalk.com
-  www.7-15norwalk.com/



Comment on the EA/EIE

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has published a Joint Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Evaluation (EA/EIE) for the Route 7/15 Norwalk project. The Joint EA/EIE is now available for public review and comment. The EA/EIE is a document that is published as part of the environmental documentation process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). The Joint EA/EIE was prepared to help CTDOT find a solution for the incomplete connections between Routes 7 and 15. The Project aims to improve mobility and safety at the Main Avenue and Route 7 interchanges on the Merritt Parkway. Members of the public can submit comments and questions during the 45-day public comment period, which will end on August 31, 2023.

Comments can also be email to comments@7-15norwalk.com or mailed to Kevin Carifa, Transportation Assistant Director, 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06111.

First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Email	
<input type="text"/>	
Street	Town
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
State	Zip
<input type="text" value="CT"/>	<input type="text"/>
Would you like to receive email updates on the project status?	
<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
File Upload:	
<input type="button" value="Choose File"/> No file chosen	



Stay Involved!

Attend the public hearing, connect with us via email, or follow us on social media. Visit the project website for more information.

www.7-15Norwalk.com