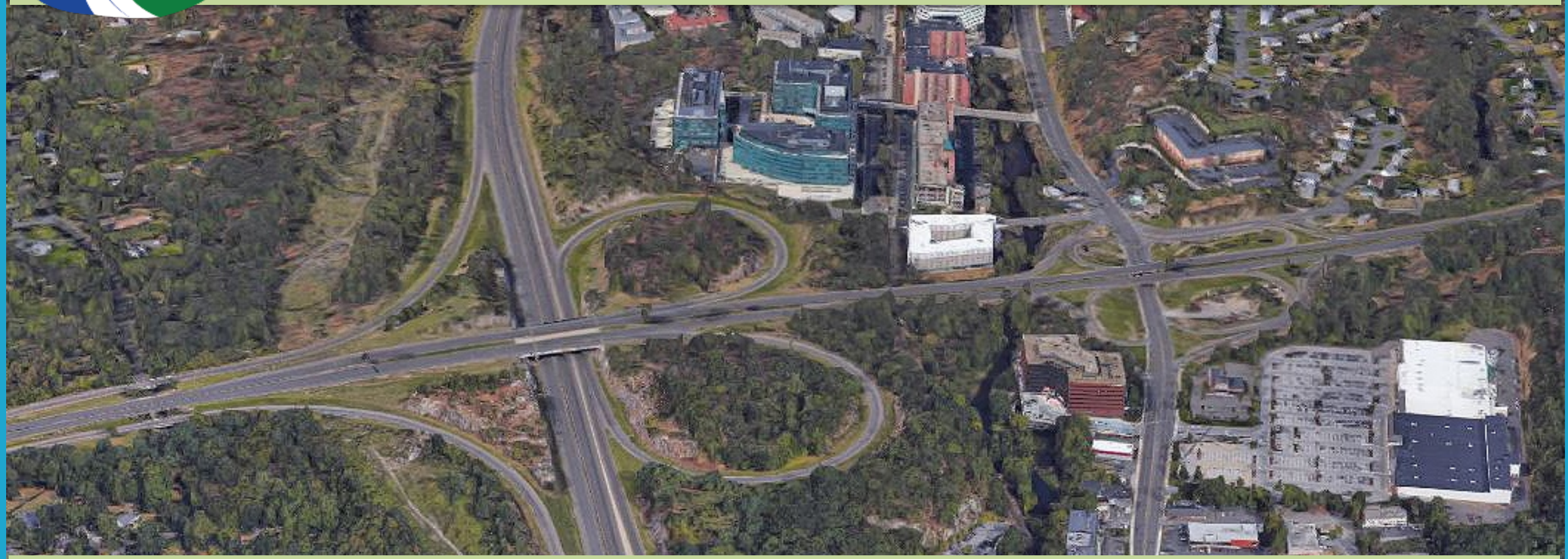
Route 7/15 Norwalk Project –
PAC Sub-committee Meeting on Section 106 and 4(f)



Friday, September 15th, Fodor Farm

Route 7/15 Norwalk - AGENDA

- Introductions
- Role of subcommittee
- Overview of 106 and 4(f)
- What we have learned
- Discussion
- Next Steps/Questions

Route 7/15 Norwalk

Role of Subcommittee

What is your role?

- Provide input on existing conditions
- Advise the PAC based on expertise
- Stay connected

Route 7/15 Norwalk - Overview of Section 106 and 4f

Regulatory Review

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 1970
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA)
- Section 4(f) U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966

Route 7/15 Norwalk - Overview of Section 106 and 4f

What is Section 106?

- Preservation Tool and Legal Requirement
- Consider effects of projects on historic properties
- Provide ACHP an opportunity to comment before agency decision
- Encourages but does not mandate preservation of historic resources

Route 7/15 Norwalk - Overview of Section 106 and 4f

Section 106 Process

Initiate Process

- Determine if Section 106 applies
- Coordinate with NEPA
- Notify SHPO/THPO
- Identify Consulting Parties

Identify Historic Properties

- Determine APE
- Identify Historic Properties using National Register criteria
- Consult with SHPO/THPO
- Involve the Public

Assess Adverse Effects

- Apply criteria of Adverse Effect
- Direct and Indirect effects alter the characteristics of a historic property that qualify it for the NR
- Reasonably foreseeable effects and cumulative

Resolve Adverse Effects

- Consult SHPO/THPO and other consulting parties to develop alternatives and/or modifications to avoid, minimize or mitigate effects.
- Possible ACHP participation
- MOA drafted and implemented

Route 7/15 Norwalk - Overview of Section 106 and 4f

Historic Properties

Districts, sites, buildings and objects listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

A. Events - significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
B. Significant people
C. Distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, the work of a master, possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction
D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory

Integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association

Route 7/15 Norwalk - Overview of Section 106 and 4f

- **Section 106 - Outcome**
  - **No Historic Properties Affected**
  - **No Adverse Effect on Historic Properties**
  - **Adverse Effect on Historic Properties**
    - Directly or indirectly alter the seven aspects of integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association)

Route 7/15 Norwalk - Overview of Section 106 and 4f

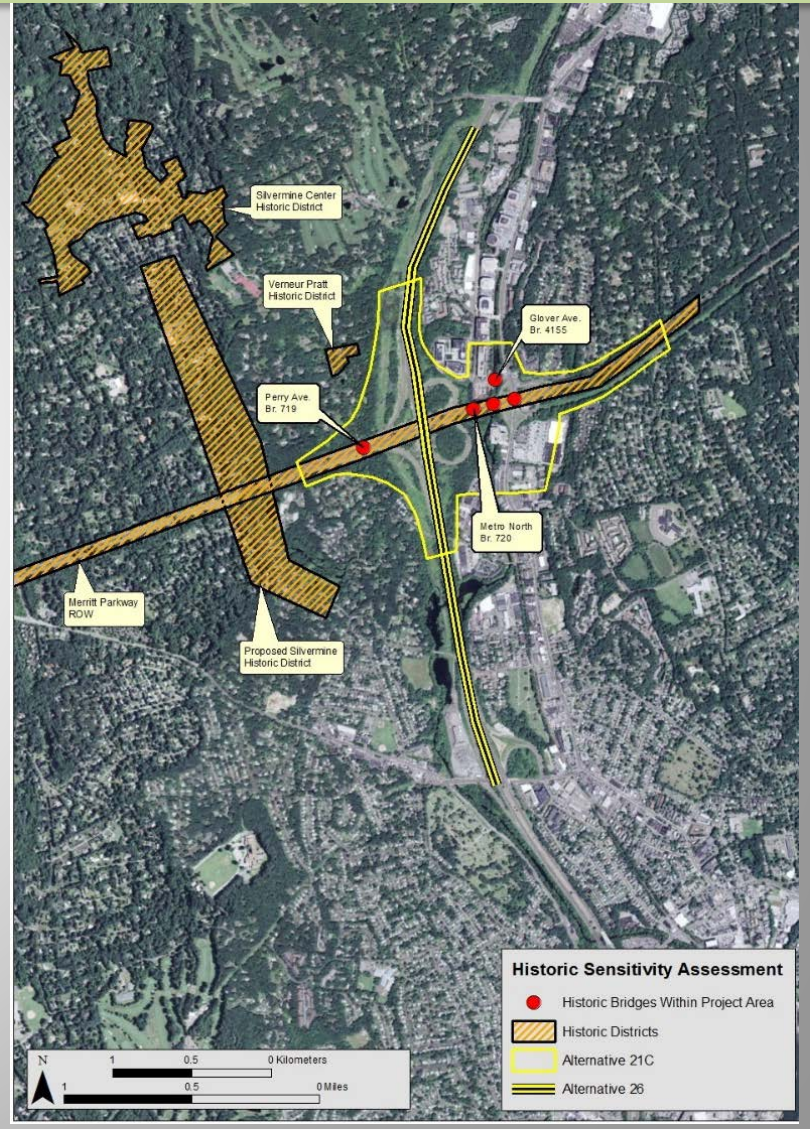
Section 4(f)

- Different requirements than Section 106
- Includes more than historic properties – ex. recreational lands, parks, waterfowl refuges
- U.S. Department of Transportation projects only
- FHWA determines *feasible and prudent* alternative to avoid Section 4(f) properties
- Project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to Section 4(f) properties
- Goal – “Least overall harm”

Route 7/15 Norwalk - Existing Conditions

Historic Districts

- Verneur Pratt Historic District
- Silvermine Center Historic District
- Silvermine Avenue Historic District



Route 7/15 Norwalk - Existing Conditions

The Merritt Parkway

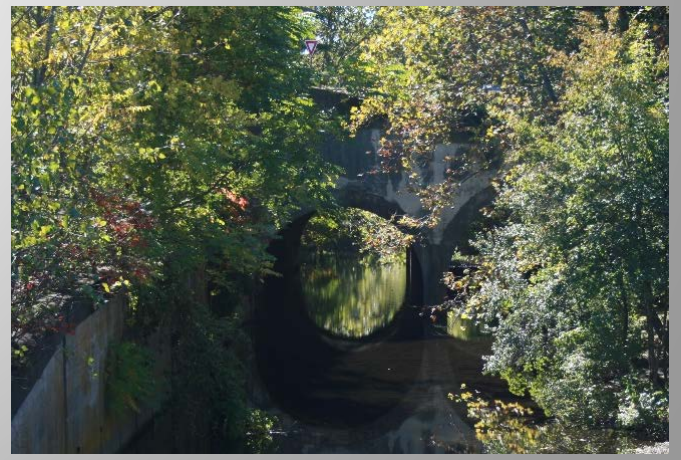
National Register of Historic Places (1991), HABS/HAER (1992), State Scenic Road (1993), National Scenic Byway (1996)

- Significant designed landscape
  - Geometry of the roadway - cuts and fills designed to accentuate viewsheds for drivers
  - Trees and plantings maintained or added to blend into and enhance natural surroundings
  - Landscape used to "heal" man-made intrusions
  - Associated elements - guardrails, signage
- Guidelines
  - *A Landscape Master Plan for the Merritt Parkway* (Milone & MacBroom 1994)
  - *Merritt Parkway Guidelines for General Maintenance and Transportation Improvements* (Merritt Parkway Working Group 1994)

Route 7/15 Norwalk - Existing Conditions

Merritt Parkway Bridges

- Perry Avenue Bridge (Bridge No. 719)
- Metro North Bridge (Bridge No. 720)
- Norwalk River Bridge (Bridge No. 721)
- Main Avenue Bridge (Bridge No. 530A and B)



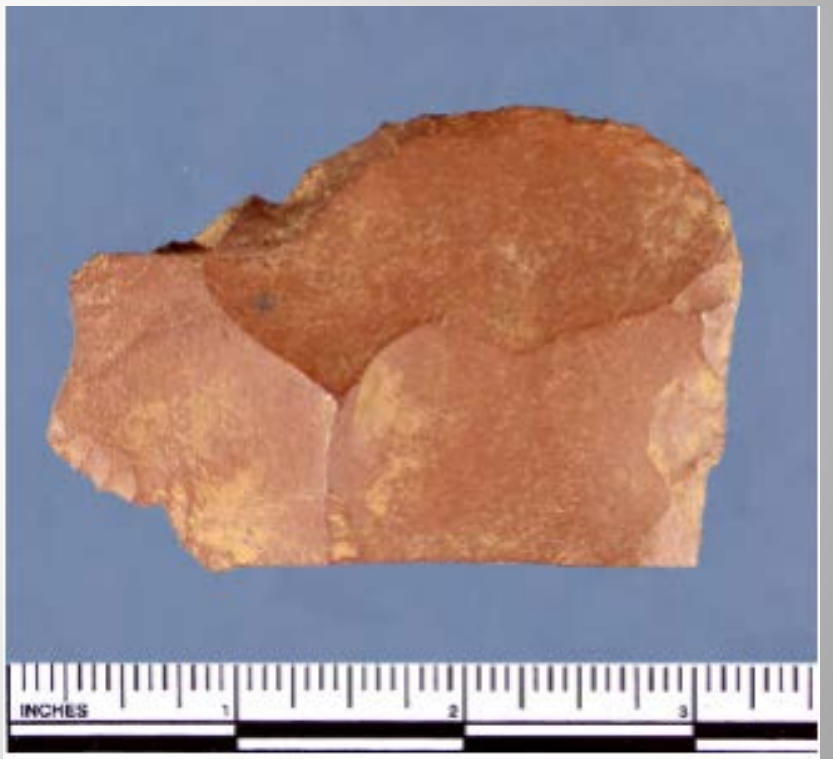
Route 7/15 Norwalk - Existing Conditions

Glover Avenue Bridge (Bridge No 4155)

Route 7/15 Norwalk - Existing Conditions

Archaeology

- Seven areas of archaeological sensitivity initially identified (Phase IA)
- Subsurface testing (Phase IB) located additional Native American and historic-period sites



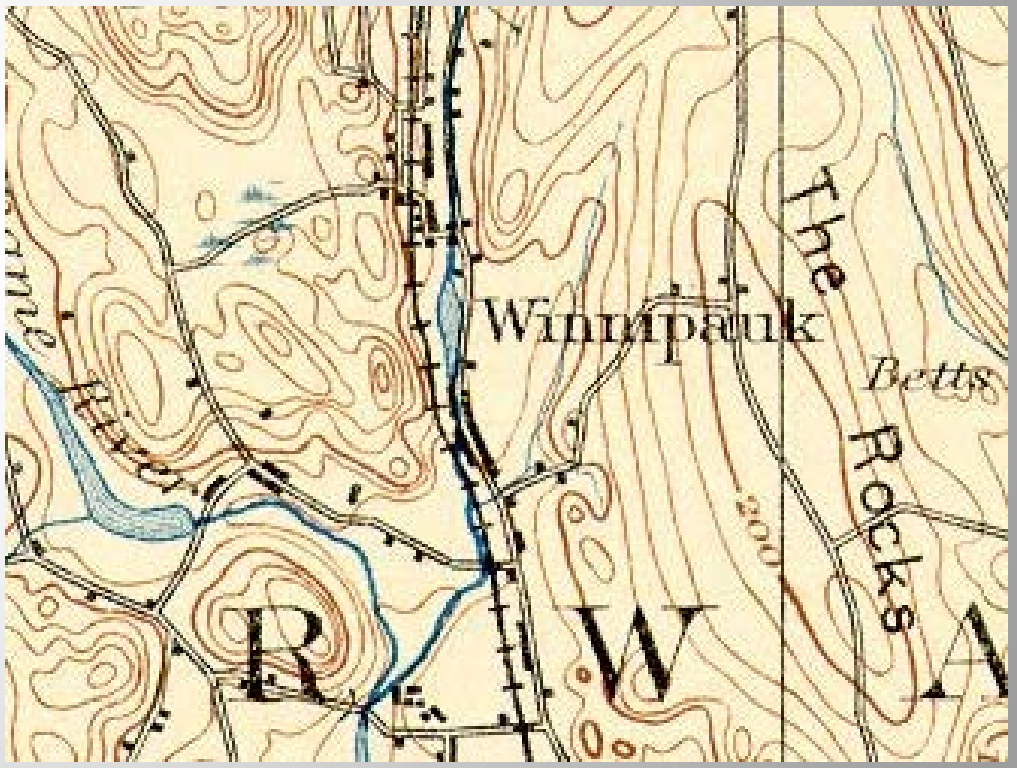
Siltstone Scraper, Site 103-49

Route 7/15 Norwalk - Existing Conditions

Archaeology

- Several of these sites may be National Register-eligible, but require Phase II Intensive Survey to make that determination

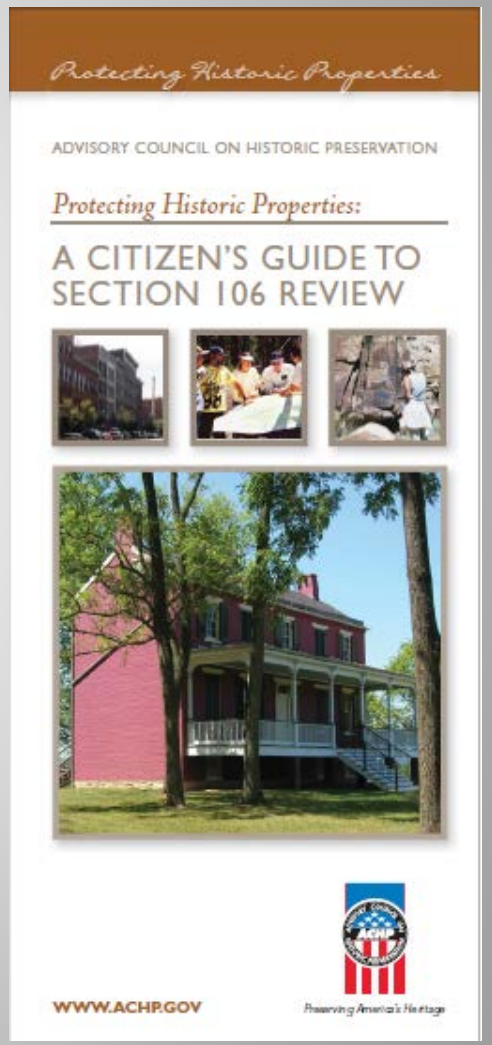
- Phase II survey on hold until design is advanced to ascertain whether the sites will be impacted



Route 7/15 Norwalk

Next Steps

- Design Plans
- Impact Analysis
- Assessment of Effects on Existing Conditions



Route 7/15 Norwalk

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