



TOWN OF VERNON

Office of the Mayor

14 Park Place • Vernon, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3600 • Fax: (860) 870-3580

www.Vernon-CT.gov

Daniel A. Champagne
Mayor

Michael J. Purcaro
Town Administrator

Dawn R. Maselek
Assistant Town Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Contact:

David Owens, Communications Specialist

Desk (860) 870-3574

Cell (860) 494-5973

Dart Hill Road Bridge Replacement to Begin in Spring

Virtual Public Meeting Scheduled for December 8th at 7 p.m.

(VERNON, Connecticut) – Replacement of the Dart Hill Road bridge over the Hockanum River is scheduled to begin next spring. Plans call for a complete closure of the bridge and a detour from late June to September 2021 so that work on the project can progress safely and efficiently.

When the detour is in place, traffic that normally travels on Dart Hill Road will be detoured to Windsorville Road (Route 74). Eastbound traffic will go north on Skinner Road to Windsorville Road and westbound traffic will go north on Route 83 to Windsorville Road.

Sidewalks near the bridge are being replaced as part of a separate project under the Safe Routes to School program.

A virtual public meeting to explain the project has been scheduled on December 8th at 7:00 p.m. and will be conducted via Webex. The meeting address is:

<https://meetmmi.webex.com/meetmmi/j.php?MTID=mab92fcb9a0c24a72a6b48c0d68cf2cee>

“Vernon has been proactive in maintaining its bridges,” Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne said. “When the project is complete, this bridge will be up to 21st century standards. Doing this project in one construction season will also save a significant amount of taxpayer money and limit the detour to one construction season rather than two years.”

Once construction begins, Vernon’s emergency service leaders have developed plans to ensure a timely response to homes and businesses west of the bridge.

“Keeping the bridge open during construction would complicate the project and add to its cost,” Vernon Town Engineer David Smith said. “The contractor would have to build alternating traffic lanes and construction crews would have to dodge vehicle traffic and pedestrians that use the bridge. Complete closure of the bridge will allow the contractor to work more efficiently and keep the public safe.”

When completed in November 2021, the new bridge will be wider, and have better geometry and sight lines, Smith said.

The new bridge will also have a protected area for pedestrians, adding to overall safety, Smith said.

Construction is projected to begin on April 5, 2021 and the detour is expected to be required from late June to early September 2021. The bridge is expected to be completed in November 2021. The project is expected to go out to bid in January and a contract will likely be awarded in March.

The project's estimated \$2.5 million cost is being covered mostly by a federal grant through the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program, which is administered by the Capital Region Council of Governments and the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Federal money covers construction costs while the Town of Vernon is paying about \$400,000 for construction management and inspection costs.

About the Town of Vernon

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and wellbeing of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of approximately 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in "New England's Knowledge Corridor" with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Recently designated as a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870-3670 or visit www.vernon-ct.gov.

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