



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

August 23, 2023

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Paul Aresta
Executive Director

Ryan Aylesworth
Town Manager
Audrey P. Heck Building
4 South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268

Re: Juniper Lane Bridge and Atwoodville Road Bridge over the Mount Hope River,
Mansfield

Dear Mr. Aylesworth,

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) received notices regarding the proposed bridge replacement projects for the Juniper Lane Bridge and the Atwoodville Road Bridge over the Mount Hope River in Mansfield. The Council notes that the Atwoodville Road Bridge is located within a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) designated Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) buffer area, within DEEP's Mansfield Hollow Wildlife Management Area, and proximate to one of DEEP's active trout stocking sites. The Council notes that the Juniper Lane Bridge is also proximate to one of DEEP's active trout stocking sites. Both bridges traverse the Mount Hope River, which contributes water to the Willimantic Reservoir. Consequently, the Council recommends that 1) the bridge designers/construction company consult with DEEP's Fisheries Division and the Wildlife Division/NDDB for guidance to minimize and mitigate any potential adverse impacts on fisheries and wildlife resources, and state-listed species; 2) the construction contractors adhere to the Connecticut Department of Public Health's General Construction Best Management Practices for Sites within a Public Drinking Water Supply Area¹; and 3) the Mansfield Inland Wetlands Agency carefully review the proposed project, at the appropriate time, for consistency with the Town's Wetland Regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council's comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

c: John C. Carrington, Director of Public Works, Mansfield
Marc Byrnes, DOT, Transportation Supervising Engineer
James Barrows, DOT, Transportation Engineer 3

¹ https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/drinking_water/pdf/BMPFactSheetpdf.pdf