

CITY OF NORWALK  
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY  
SPECIAL MEETING  
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE  
October 14, 2025

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via e-mail in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Ben Yeung at [byeung@norwalkct.gov](mailto:byeung@norwalkct.gov) to provide written comments prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Tony Lopez; Commissioner Ronald Paladino; Commissioner Nate Sumpter; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Terry Blake; Deputy Chief Joseph Dinho; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore; Ben Yeung, Senior Engineer

OTHERS: Prashant Chandra, CT DOT; Brett Myskowski, CT DOT; Jared Hendrickson, CT DOT; Robert Bradway, CT DOT

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Rilling called the roll, and all those listed in the attendance were present.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation this morning.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. CT. DOT- NEW CANAAN AVENUE- ROADWAY GRADE CROSSING  
RECONSTRUCTION**

Mr. Chandra discussed the issues at the railroad crossing on Route 123 and New Canaan Avenue and said they understand this will be an inconvenience to some, but conveyed the necessity of the work and that it will be done as expeditiously as possible. He provided a background and said that on September 22, 2025, the district was notified that the project had been initiated as a high-priority project with an accelerated schedule. The purpose and need of the project is to prepare the crossing at Route 123 and New Canaan Avenue, where the road elevation is too high east of the railroad crossing and too low west of the railroad crossing.

Mr. Chandra presented the existing conditions and said this project was first completed in August by Metro-North, but their work on the roadway has created a very short transition to the crossing, making it difficult for motorists. There have been complaints and instances of low-clearance vehicles scraping the roadway surfaces, and concerns for DOT maintenance. Also, it will be necessary to install drainage east of the railroad crossing to alleviate the water that has been streaming across the tracks. Due to the track elevation change, a new profile was developed within the coordinates to accommodate truck movements and the traveling public. Due to the superelevation drainage, improvements are needed on the east side of the railroad track.

Mayor Rilling asked how long the work would take to complete and what the extent of the road closure would be. Mr. Chandra said they are hoping to start road closure and detour tomorrow, October 15, 2025, at 12:00 AM through October 22, 2025, at 11:59 PM. They understand this will be an inconvenience to most of the public, but it will be of short duration. There is also a

potential need for a detour for the drainage installations on either November 1, 2025, at 12:00 AM through November 2, 2025, at 11:59 PM, or November 8, 2025, at 12:00 AM through November 9, 2025, at 11:59 PM. Mr. Hendrickson said, however, they will be speaking with the contractor to see if it can be done in stages rather than a full closure, but there is a potential for a full closure and detour.

Mayor Rilling requested that the sidewalk on the north side of the road, which does not connect all the way, be included in this project. Mr. Hendrickson needs to speak with his management team and report back, but this is not currently included in the project.

Mr. Myskowski said they are preparing to run conduit under Route 123 during the full closure for a future project that would extend the sidewalk across Route 123, but will not affect Route 123, and their management team is looking to complete this sidewalk.

Mr. Yeung said it was their understanding that, during the initial installation of the railroad upgrade in August, an extra concrete panel would be installed in case a future sidewalk was required. There is currently a gap, and there are challenges with it due to the existing railroad signal infrastructure, among other things, and he would greatly appreciate it if this were discussed with the management team.

Mr. Bradway said that they would need to do an MUTCD-required diagnostic review to determine what control devices would be needed for completing the sidewalk gap, in coordination with Metro-North, DOT, FRA, and the City of Norwalk. They would then work with Metro-North to come up with a plan to move the devices in order to complete the sidewalk gap.

Mayor Rilling asked if the same detour would be used as the last time. Mr. Myskowski said “Yes,” but will make a few changes to the temporary signalization and the actual closure based on lessons learned from the August closure, and presented the changes and said the only thing they are going to be changing is the actual closure detail and doing some more temporary signalization at the Main Street and New Cannan intersection.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said the road will be closed at midnight today if personnel are on site. Mr. Hendrickson said he believes the plan is to have them on site first thing in the morning, but he will discuss with them following this meeting.

Commissioner Lopez asked for clarification on the gap in the schedule for construction completion. Mr. Hendrickson said the intention is to have the construction completed before the holiday period, but just in case, they will be allowed to work until December 1<sup>st</sup>. But their intention is to have the road open before Thanksgiving travel.

Commissioner Lopez said there seems to have been some miscommunication between the correction to the grade and the necessary drainage, and asked how that could be avoided in the future. Mr. Hendrickson said the Office of Rail has called together a working group to draft up renewed procedures to ensure that something like this doesn't happen again and they have never experienced where the railroad has drastically made this kind of grade change without requesting that permission in advance and understand that this is a major inconvenience to the community and have to make sure this doesn't happen again.

Commissioner Paladino asked whether all affected businesses had been notified in advance. Mr. Chandra said he has sent an email, but does not know if the actual owners have been notified. Mr. Hendrickson said that he knows that Dunkin Donuts, the First Taxing District, the firearms and archery store, and Levine Auto Parts were all notified of the project.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE PROPOSED FULL CLOSURE FOR CT DOT ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT AT RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING ON NEW CANAAN AVENUE.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd