

CITY OF NORWALK  
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE  
November 17, 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; Nathan Fankhanel

OTHERS: Prashant Chandra, CTDOT; Richard Leso; CTDOT; Miniuk Andrei; Tom Beckman; BL Companies; Jeff Bird; WSP; Gus Melo; CTDOT; Michael Shepley, BL Companies; Michael Dion; BL Companies

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

**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.

**IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**A. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING ON OCTOBER 20, 2025.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. APPROVE 2026 TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING DATES**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2026 TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING DATES.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. APPROVE ROAD CLOSURES FOR BOSTON BUILD UP**

Mr. Fankhanel presented the route map and said the event is the same as in past years. Chief Walsh said the police department has no objections or concerns, and it is an event that has been held in the past.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **C. APPROVE ROAD CLOSURES FOR WALK BRIDGE RETAINING WALL WORK ON FORT POINT STREET**

Mr. Bird said this particular road impact is to support their work on Fort Point Street between South Smith Street and Moore Place, and they are requesting an alternating Fort Point Street truck detour and a detour of vehicular traffic around Reynolds Street, South Smith Street, and across VanZant Street. They would like to request a continuation or extension of a road closure traffic detour pattern that they are currently working with, which is in effect exclusively in the evenings, and request to extend the scope to be 24 hours, seven days a week, beginning December 1, 2025, through January 24, 2025. This will allow them to complete this scheduled sensitive work and continue their milestone of reopening track three. He shared a map of the detour routes. They have committed to removing their pattern with 24 hours' advance notice to restore normal traffic operations should there be any inclement weather. Driveways, local traffic, and pedestrian access will be fully maintained, and they will work with the stakeholders two weeks in advance to notify them and update them as the work approaches. This request will allow them to accelerate their critical work on the north wall reconstruction, reduce the overall project timeline by more than 2 months, and achieve cost savings.

Commissioner Sumpter asked if the road would be paved at the end of the project. Mr. Bird said “Yes” and that they will do a final reconstruction and full roadway reconstruction towards the end of the project, but will not do final paving until several years in the future; however, any work they do in the roadway will be repaired once this phase is completed.

Commissioner Lopez asked how the work would affect the community and whether there would be any adverse effects that the commission should be aware of. Mr. Bird clarified that they are currently performing this work or working in the area have done some preliminary testing cores at night, so they are already or already going to be working during the evening hours which they were already approved to do so any work they are requesting now is during the day when the intersection in the area is much more active than it is at night, so this will be no more impactful and the type of activity that they will be doing will not be a overly noise impacting operation.

Mr. **Melo** said this work is critical to the program and will help substantially reduce the costs of the Walk Bridge project, while decreasing the overall duration of the project and its impacts on the community.

Chief Walsh said there have been intermittent closures like that in the past year, and they have caused no great issues.

Commissioner Paladino asked whether the businesses in the area have been notified and whether the yard waste site will be affected. Mr. Bird said they have coordinated with the businesses, and if this is approved, their public information group will visit all local

stakeholders to notify them, coordinate with DPW, and accommodate their vehicular traffic.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**D. APPROVE PROPOSED MAINTENANCE & PROTECTION OF TRAFFIC  
PLAN FOR DRAINAGE INSTALLATION ON WEST AVENUE**

Chief Walsh said that he and Deputy Chief Blake have had a few email exchanges with Mr. Yeung and the CTDOT as they realize this is a large project that will cause disruption, but they have to cross the road, and this is the best plan to minimize full closures.

Mayor Rilling said this will not take place until after January, so it will not interfere with the mall during the holiday season.

Mr. Chandra said the project has been delayed for a while and stressed the importance of completing this work. He has the confidence, and the contractor has also given them the confidence that they will do this project as expeditiously as possible.

Mr. Beckman presented the proposed MPT plan resulting from the changes. He said the pipe supports I-95 and West Avenue, and the average daily traffic at the onramp on those roads is approximately 7,000 and 19,000 vehicles per day, respectively. This structure takes a lot of drainage from both state and city water that flows into the Norwalk River, and this location has been the subject of many drainage improvements in recent projects. The purpose and need of this project are to address the noted critical structural deficiencies and, as a result, increase hydraulic capacity in the area to address historical flooding.

Mr. Shepley provided an overview of the traffic plan and said there will be further restrictions at night since the traffic during the day is heavier so the contractor will not be allowed to take as many lanes from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM and the contractor isn't allowed to close any lanes during the weekend which is the busiest time period for the mall and will have one month to complete the work. The signal timings will be changed to accommodate traffic on West Avenue from Reed Street to Matthews Park. In order to try and alleviate the traffic in the area, there will be alternative detours to try and get as much traffic away from West Avenue as possible, and there will be plenty of signage, as well as changeable messaging signs for both the northbound and southbound sides of West Avenue, to try and get traffic to seek alternate routes.

Commissioner Lopez asked whether the lights on the detour routes will also be adjusted accordingly. Mr. Shepley said they reviewed the capacity analyses of the other signals in the area and found that none were needed.

Commissioner Paladino asked about inclement weather. Mr. Andrei said that in the event of inclement weather, they will pave the road and be completely off the roadway to allow for snow removal.

Commissioner Lopez asked when the project is anticipated to start. Mr. Andrei said the second week of January.

Mayor Rilling asked whether the source of water entering the Norwalk River is the same one that is now funneling water into the Norwalk River, and if the DEEP has been consulted. Mr. Beckman said the stormwater is from state and city roadways, and the project isn't changing the source of that water. This project will assess the condition of the structure, and the state has an MS4 program in the area. Mr. Chandra said no additional water from any other source will be added, and that the system will remain the same, with the existing culvert just being relined.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd