



CT DOT's I-95 Bridge Project Protects Water Quality

By Geoff Steadman, NHMC Planning Consultant

It's no secret that in 2018 the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT DOT) is pursuing several major projects impacting on Norwalk and Norwalk Harbor. While the planned work to replace the Norwalk River Railroad Bridge continues to receive the most public attention, and deservedly so, another CT DOT project, recently approved by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, is expected to have a significant positive impact on the harbor. This work involves rehabilitation of the I-95 Bridge (also known as the Yankee Doodle Bridge) over the Norwalk River and harbor. For years, the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission (NHMC) has encouraged the CT DOT to reduce the direct discharge of stormwater into the harbor from the bridge deck. The recently approved project does that, and the NHMC commends the CT DOT for incorporating stormwater management measures into its bridge rehabilitation plans, thereby helping to protect water quality in the harbor and Long Island Sound.

Twenty years ago, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found contaminated sediment in the federal navigation channel under and near the Yankee Doodle Bridge, thereby complicating and adding substantially to the cost of the Corps' harbor dredging project. Since that time, the NHMC and CT DOT have participated in numerous cooperative meetings and discussions concerning this issue. In an effort to contribute to an effective solution, the NHMC conducted a special study of highway stormwater pollution. This study (see *Yankee Doodle Bridge Stormwater Assessment Technical Report, August 2017) by water quality scientist Thomas Hart, identified highway pollutants generated by the estimated 146,000 vehicles that pass over

the Yankee Doodle Bridge each day; compared those pollutants to the pollutants identified by the Corps in the harbor's dredged sediments; and suggested best management practices (BMPs) for managing stormwater running off the bridge deck.

Since Interstate 95 in Connecticut, including the Yankee Doodle Bridge, opened in January 1958, stormwater from the entire bridge surface has been discharged through more than 90 bridge deck drains (scuppers) without any engineered treatment infrastructure to receive the downspout discharges. Forty-four drains empty directly into the Norwalk River and harbor. Following the bridge rehabilitation project, runoff from 85% of the bridge surface will be directed through under-bridge pipes to stormwater retention ponds to be created and maintained under the east and west approaches to the bridge.

The NHMC recognizes and appreciates the significant efforts of the CT DOT to re-evaluate and then redesign its original bridge rehabilitation plans to incorporate stormwater management measures to improve water quality. It is the NHMC's hope that similar engineered approaches can become the standard for other transportation infrastructure projects, with the same benefits to water quality in other Connecticut waterways and Long Island Sound.

*The report is available here: http://www.norwalkct.org/DocumentCenter/View/13499/Yankee-Doodle-Bridge-Stormwater--Report_Final-6218

City of Norwalk, Connecticut

The mission of the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission is to evaluate issues, make recommendations, and provide support to the City of Norwalk in preserving and enhancing the use, vitality, and quality of life associated with the Norwalk Harbor and Long Island Sound.

New Deputy Harbor Master appointed

Norwalk welcomes Bruce J. Lovallo as Deputy Harbor Master. Lovallo was appointed late last year by Governor Dannel P. Malloy to succeed Paul Saviano, who passed away in 2017 soon after Saviano was appointed to the position.

Lovello has over 40 years of boating experience in the Norwalk Harbor and surrounding inlet waterways. He has worked closely with City officials, marina owners, boat operators and the general public.

Lovallo is a Norwalk Police Officer with 20 years of Law Enforcement experience. He works with the Norwalk Police Marine Unit and is part of the Norwalk Police Dive and Rescue Team. He is a standing member of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) with certifications as a Medical Response Technician; Open Water

SCUBA Diver; Advanced SCUBA Diver (NAUI-National Association of Underwater Instructors); and Cold Water and Ice SCUBA diver. He also has certification in Fire Suppression and Fire Boat Operation.

In his role as the Deputy Harbor Master, Lovallo will assist Harbor Master Gregg Scully in ensuring the safety of navigation and enforcing regulations in a manner that is consistent with the State and City approved Norwalk Harbor Management Plan.



Norwalk Harbor Moorings

There are over 100 moorings in the Norwalk Harbor, providing one of many great attributes of our waterfront community. The moorings are managed through an online mooring system by the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission's (NHMC) Mooring and Harbor Safety Committee, in conjunction with the Harbor Master of Norwalk.

The Harbor Master must approve all mooring locations in Norwalk Harbor. Appropriate ground tackle must be used in compliance with the mooring tackle guidelines that are established by the NHMC, and the ground tackle must be inspected every two years in accordance with the mooring rules and regulations.

Anyone may apply for a mooring permit. The permits are issued only to the owner of the vessel to be moored. All moored vessels must be properly registered to the permittee in accordance with laws of the State of Connecticut and properly insured in accordance with these rules and regulations. Mooring Permits are valid for one year, with an expiration of December 31st of the year issued.

Tags will be placed on mooring balls for vessels that are properly registered and comply with all mooring rules and regulations. If vessels are on moorings without tags, they are subject to penalties and fees.

For more information about moorings in Norwalk Harbor, please check out these resources and contacts:

Mooring Rules and Regulations (<http://norwalkct.org/DocumentCenter/View/9478/MooringRulesAdopted41916-2?bidId=>)

Online mooring application (<http://my.onlinemooring.com/NorwalkCT/>)

Harbor Master

HarborMaster@norwalkct.org

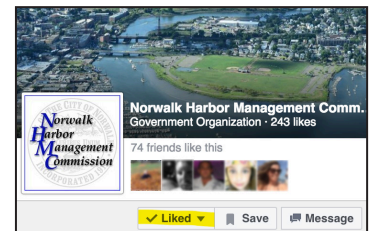
Questions for the NHMC Mooring and Harbor Safety Committee: nhcmoorings@gmail.com

What the NHMC worked on in 2018

- Participated in Norwalk's Plan of Conservation and Development to help ensure Norwalk's waterfront is appropriately acknowledged in future plans
- Reviewed DOT's plans for replacing the Norwalk River Railroad Bridge to help protect and preserve the harbor and waterfront for consistency with the Norwalk Harbor Management Plan
- Reviewed DOT's plans for repairing the I95 Yankee Doodle Bridge to help ensure that reconstruction debris is properly handled and appropriate stormwater management is used
- Managed the mooring system to ensure all moorings are used for properly registered vessels that are compliant with all rules and regulations
- Worked closely with the Shellfish Commission to help protect shellfish resource



Norwalk Harbor Management Commission



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John Crespo
William T Gardella, JR.
Anthony T. Mobilia
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Jan Schaefer, Plans & Recommendations
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John Pinto, Dredging
Jan Schaefer, Newsletter & Web Page
Tony Mobilia Bridge Committee
Joseph Schnierlein, Mayor's Water Quality

The Commission meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM in P & Z Conference Room located in Norwalk City Hall.

Norwalk City Hall
125 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851

To contact the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission, call 203.854.7780 or visit us at: www.norwalkct.org

For state information: www.ctharbormanagement.org

