

Glastonbury Citizen – letter to the editor submission

There have been recent communications, including a letter to the editor in the Glastonbury Citizen, that have raised questions about the status of the bicycle and pedestrian access on the Putnam Bridge. I would like to clarify the facts of the project. The project is not delayed - it is moving forward as planned. The cantilevered walkway was completed as phase 1 of the project, during the recent Putnam Bridge maintenance work. The plan, from the beginning, was that the access to the walkway would be phase 2, with an anticipated gap of a few years before completion. It made fiscal sense to build the walkway while state work crews and equipment were already in place. The connections require further design and survey, wetland permits, and must make their way through the federal, state, and regional funding processes. While a bond for construction was not approved this fiscal year, this does not delay the timing of the project, because the construction phase of the project was not planned for this fiscal year. The project is currently in the design and survey phase. Bond money had already been released for the current phase of the project, and these funds are now being utilized. I have communicated directly with DOT and have been informed that the project is continuing as planned. Consistent with my communications, the minutes of the State of Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board's recent meeting state that the DOT reported that it is moving forward with the Putnam Bridge approach project, has initiated design, and the survey is underway. With almost any expenditure, individuals will have different viewpoints regarding value and priorities. It is my intention, with this letter, to simply share the facts. Thank you.

- Deb Dauphinais
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