

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

ULURP APPLICATION NO: C 160253 MMX

Westchester Avenue Bridge Replacement

DOCKET DESCRIPTION

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the New York City Department of Transportation, Division of Bridges, pursuant to Section 197-c and 199 of the New York City Charter for an amendment to the City Map involving:

- the modification of legal grades on Westchester Avenue between Waters Place and Hutchinson River Parkway East Service Road

in Community Districts #10 and #11, Borough of The Bronx, in accordance with Map No. 13139 dated March 2, 2017, and signed by the Borough President.

BACKGROUND

This application would facilitate the replacement of a mapped bridge constructed in 1940. The current 100-foot wide, approximately 159-foot long four-lane multi-girder steel bridge provides an east-west linkage over the Hutchinson River Parkway, connecting Waters Place on the east with Hutchinson River Parkway East Service Road on the west, at Westchester Avenue.

The Department of Transportation has budgeted \$45 Million to facilitate the rehabilitation of the Westchester Avenue Bridge with new design to increase the minimum vertical clearance from 10'2" to 12'6" above Hutchinson River Parkway required per AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) standards for parkways with passenger cars only.

The proposed project includes the replacement of the concrete bridge deck, parapets, steel girders, bearings, two water mains, and standard railing and fence on sidewalks. In addition, the following elements would be included in the project: an additional water main; reconstruction of the approach roadways; relocation of various under deck utilities; rehabilitation of traffic signals and street lights; and two height-restrictor barriers.

The rehabilitation of the Westchester Avenue Bridge including the contractor staging and laydown be performed within the property of the City of New York. The proposed project will produce the least impact by maintaining New York City Transit Subway 6 Train operations, a continuous deck across the entire width, and service of utilities across except water mains. The temporary in the public impact includes suspended service of water mains. Overall, it is

anticipated the construction of the proposed project would not result in significant adverse impacts on transportation services on Westchester Avenue, Hutchinson River Parkway and NYCT Subway 6 Train.

Construction is expected to commence in July 10, 2017, and requires 60 months for completion. The proposed project would restore structural integrity and improve vertical clearance above Hutchinson River Parkway, and overall traffic conditions by using cost effective methods to reduce negative impact and to provide an acceptable level of service. Non-standard features would be eliminated to improve vehicular and pedestrian traffic flow. Overall, the project would enhance safety and increase reliability of the Westchester Avenue Bridge, Hutchinson River Parkway and surrounding roadways.

To accommodate the traffic lanes, sidewalks and bicycle lanes, the Department of Transportation proposes to modify the existing mapped street grades on Westchester Avenue. Minimal impact has been agreed to by New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYCDPR), therefore, alienation is not required.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND ULURP CERTIFICATION

This application has been reviewed pursuant to CEQR and received a Negative Declaration. The City Planning Commission certified this application as complete on April 24, 2017.

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

Bronx Community Board #10 held a public hearing on this application on June 13, 2017. A vote recommending approval was, 24 in favor, zero against, and zero abstaining.

Bronx Community Board #11 held a public hearing on this application on June 5, 2017. A vote recommending approval was, 24 in favor, four against, and three abstaining.

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC HEARING

The Bronx Borough President convened a public hearing on July 6, 2017.

Representatives of the applicant were present and spoke in favor of this application.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

I am pleased with the overall design and vision this new Westchester Avenue Bridge will offer Bronx residents, businesses and visitors. This higher bridge will enhance safety and increase reliability of the bridge for vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists. It would serve to dramatically improve south-east vehicular traffic flow on the Hutchinson River Parkway, as well as east-west vehicular traffic flow on the Westchester Avenue connecting both sides of the Hutchinson River Parkway while also offering dedicated sidewalks and bicycle lane.

I do recommend the following:

All measures should be implemented to expedite the construction and minimize noise, debris, dust and other negative impact on local traffic and surrounding communities.

The staging area during construction should be cleaned and landscaped after completion. The Department of Parks and Recreation should participate in the design, implementation and the maintenance of the pedestrian, bicycle lanes.

All street lighting incorporated into the bridge design should be extended to Waters Place and Hutchinson River Parkway East Service Road at the intersections.

With these modifications included, I am pleased to support this project and recommend approval of this application.