



145 Dennison Road
Essex, CT 06426
860/581-8554 FAX: 860/581-8543
www.rivercog.org

Bonnie Reemsnyder, Chairman
Michael Maniscalco, Vice Chairman
Noel Bishop, Secretary
Carl Fortuna, Treasurer

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Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield,
Middletown, Old Lyme,
Old Saybrook, Portland, Westbrook,
Middletown Transit District, Estuary
Transit District, Middlesex Chamber
of Commerce

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR (NEC) FUTURE TIER 1 FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY

- WHEREAS, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) released the NEC Future Tier 1 draft EIS (DEIS) on November 13, 2015;
- WHEREAS, the Lower Connecticut River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization and Council of Governments voted unanimously to oppose the Old Saybrook, CT to Kenyon, RI bypass presented as part of Alternative 1 in the DEIS;
- WHEREAS, the Lower Connecticut River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization and Council of Governments submitted comments on the DEIS to the FRA on February 16, 2016;
- WHEREAS, the FRA released the NEC Future Tier 1 final EIS (FEIS) on December 23, 2016;
- WHEREAS, the FEIS identified a preferred alternative for the North East Corridor that includes a new railroad bypass from Old Saybrook, CT to Kenyon, RI, including a new tunnel under the Connecticut River and Old Lyme Historic District from Old Saybrook, CT to Old Lyme, CT;
- WHEREAS, the preferred alternative identified in the FEIS is inconsistent with the scope of the NEC Future project;
- WHEREAS, the tunnel under the Connecticut River in the FEIS is a material and substantial change from the aerial structure shown in the DEIS released on November 13, 2015;
- WHEREAS, the DEIS was not amended with the Connecticut River tunnel before release of the FEIS and an official public comment period on the tunnel concept was not held;
- WHEREAS, during the course of the entire EIS process no public meetings were held in the counties (Middlesex County, CT; New London County, CT; and Washington County, RI) crossed by the new Old Saybrook, CT to Kenyon, RI railroad bypass identified in the FEIS;
- WHEREAS, the FEIS explicitly does not preclude the construction of an aerial structure over the Connecticut River and through the Old Lyme Historic District;
- WHEREAS, the proposed railroad bypass from Old Saybrook, CT to Kenyon, RI will occupy right-of-way along Interstate 95 that is planned by the State of Connecticut for use as interstate highway travel lanes;
- WHEREAS, a comprehensive study of potential railroad options and routes that considers how to best serve Connecticut residents and through passengers on the NEC has not been conducted, including an assessment of how the existing Connecticut River railroad bridge can be

replaced by a single crossing that accommodates both current and future rail traffic;

WHEREAS, the FEIS preferred alternative could significantly damage the fragile and unique ecology of the Connecticut River Estuary and irreparably harm Old Lyme's nationally registered historic district and landmarks;

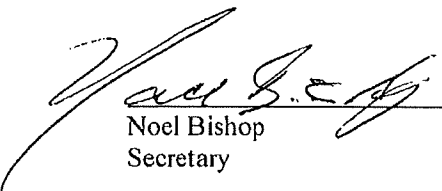
WHEREAS, the FEIS preferred alternative is not in conformity with state, regional, and local plans, including the 2015-2045 Lower Connecticut Valley Regional Long Range Transportation Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY MPO & COG

To oppose the NEC Future Tier 1 Final EIS preferred alternative to construct a new railroad bypass from Old Saybrook, CT to Kenyon, RI and a new railroad tunnel under the Connecticut River from Old Saybrook, CT to Old Lyme, CT. The opposition of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization and Council of Governments is based upon deficiencies in the EIS process, including a lack of public meetings in the affected counties, material and substantial changes to the DEIS without release of an amended DEIS and supplemental public comment period, and an FEIS that is inconsistent with the scope of the NEC Future project. We request that the Record of Decision remove the proposed Old Saybrook to Kenyon bypass from the preferred alternative; failing that, explicitly exclude an aerial structure over the Connecticut River and through the Old Lyme Historic District. In addition, we request that the all references to an aerial structure in Old Saybrook and Old Lyme be removed from FEIS text, figures, tables, and appendices.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned duly qualified and Secretary of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization and Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true copy and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Lower Connecticut River Valley MPO and COG held on December 28, 2016.


Noel Bishop
Secretary

1/3/17
Date