



# East Hampton Air Line Trail

*Trail Gap Closure – State Project Number 0041-0123*

*Public Meeting*

May 6, 2025

# Agenda

1. Project Overview & History
2. Project Purpose
3. Project Location
4. Existing Conditions
5. Proposed Conditions
6. Protecting Wetlands
7. Project Funding
8. Construction Schedule
9. Trail Maintenance
10. Contact Information

# Project Overview

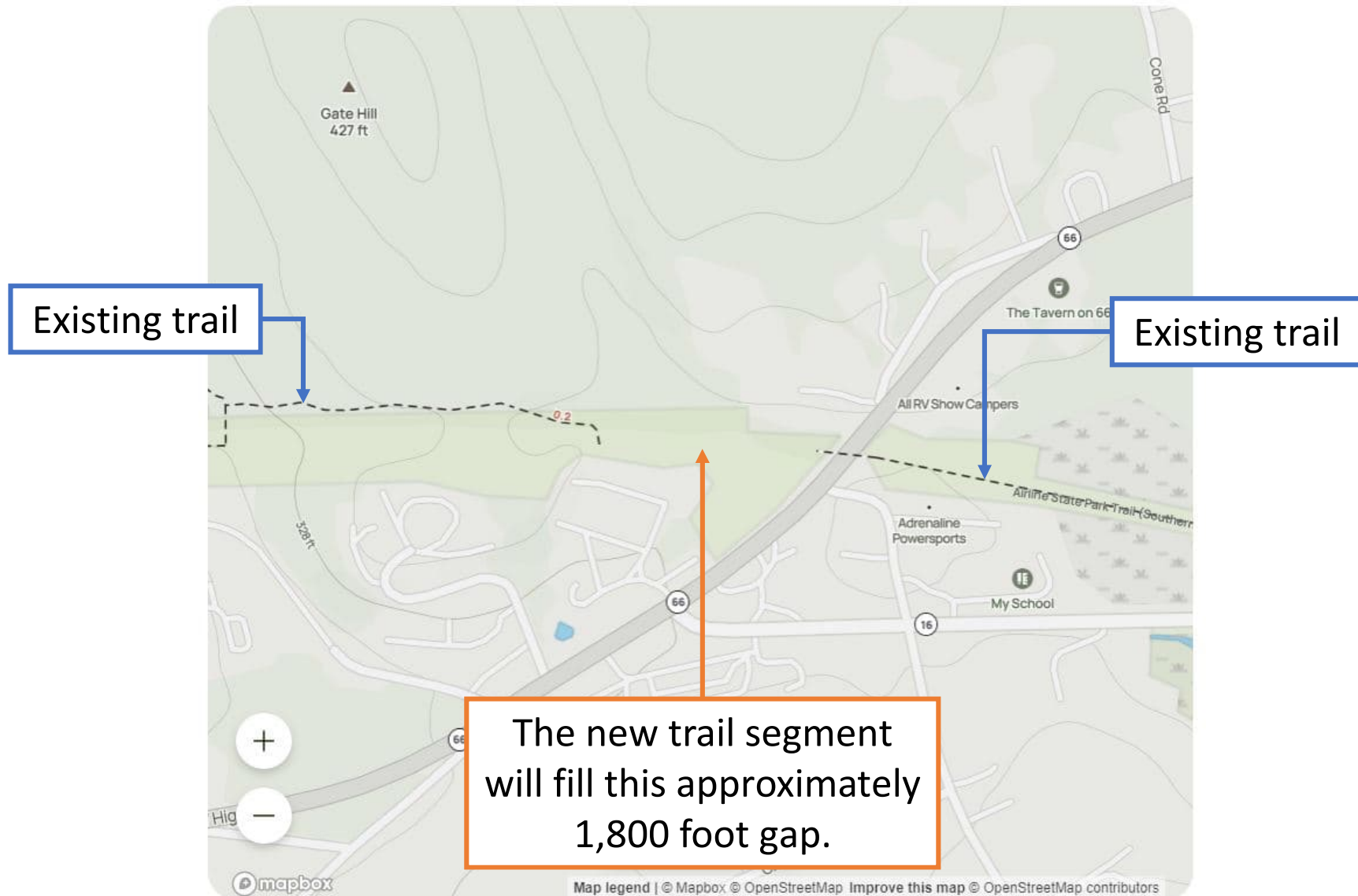
- The State Park Extends 50+ Miles From Portland to Thompson
- 80,859 Annual Trail Users (2023 CT Trail Census Data in E. Hampton)
- Proposed Trail is the former Air Line Railroad – est. in 1885



Photo of site visit to proposed trail location with Congressman Joe Courtney.

# Project Purpose

The proposed trail will connect two existing trails, and about 1,400 ft of the proposed trail will be raised boardwalk.



# Project Location



# Photos of existing conditions – future trail location

Typical example of a stone dust trail.



Existing trail at Depot Hill Road.



Example of proposed boardwalk location.



# Photos of existing conditions - future trail location

Example of proposed boardwalk location.



Western connection to existing trail.



# Photos of existing conditions – future trail location

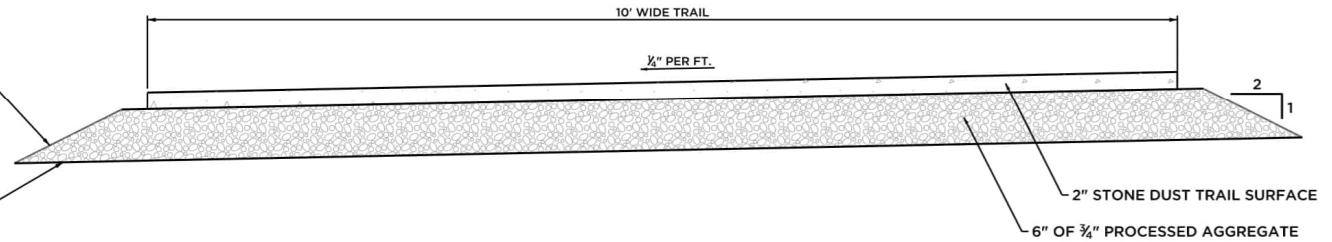
Photos of the underpass under Route 66. The proposed trail will match into the existing trail segment at the westerly edge of the underpass.



# Stone Dust Trail Cross Section

2:1 MAX SIDE SLOPES SHALL BE COMPLETED AND LEFT TO NATURALIZE WIDTH TRAIL AND LEAF LITTER - NO TOPSOIL SHALL BE INSTALLED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ON PLANS.

EXISTING TRAIL SUBGRADE SHALL BE BROUGHT UP TO PROPOSED GRADE BENEATH TRAIL UTILIZING EXISTING TRAIL BALLEST MATERIAL AND OTHER MATERIAL PRESENT ON SITE. WHERE EXISTING MATERIALS ARE NOT PRESENT - BORROW MATERIAL MAY BE UTILIZED AFTER CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY ENGINEERING.

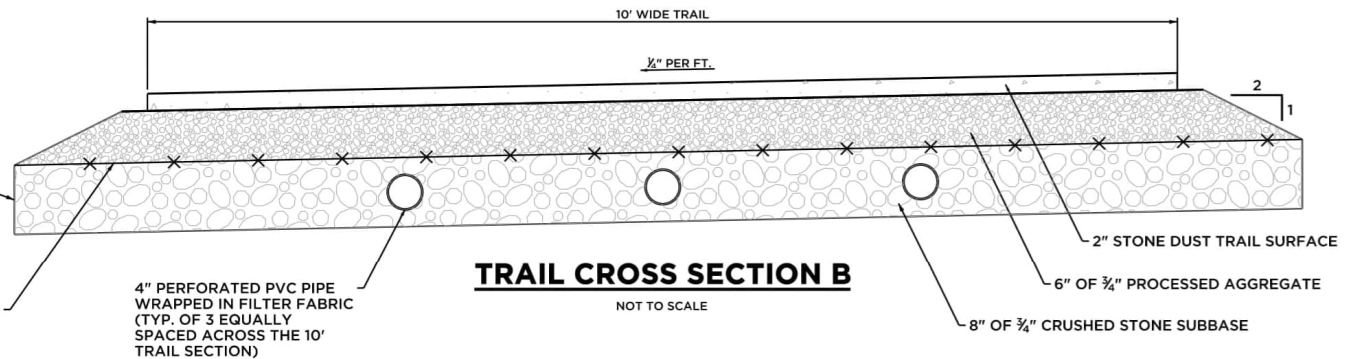


**TRAIL CROSS SECTION A**

NOT TO SCALE

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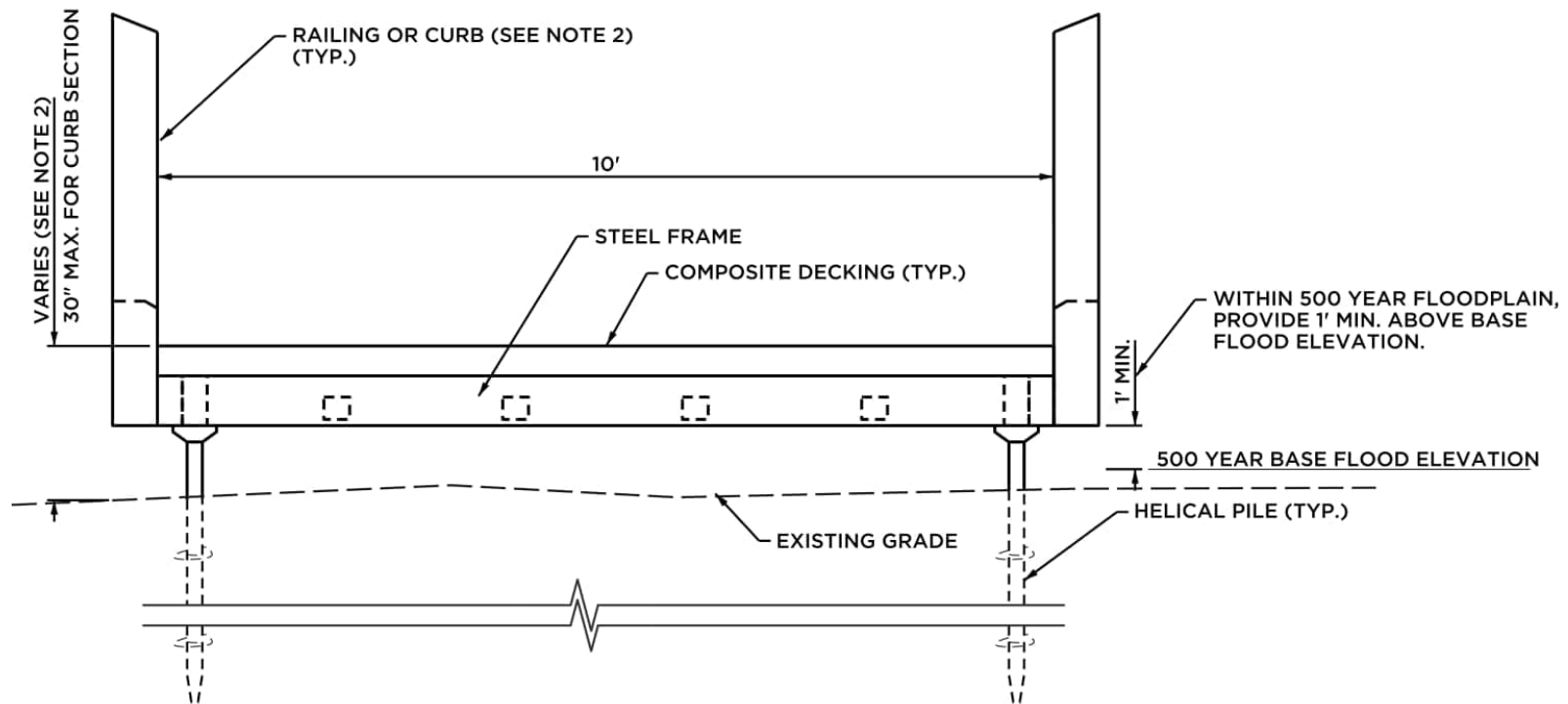
NON-WOVEN FILTER FABRIC PLACED OVER THE ENTIRE WIDTH & LENGTH OF CRUSHED STONE



**TRAIL CROSS SECTION B**

NOT TO SCALE

# Boardwalk Cross Section



- NOTES:
1. DETAIL REPRESENTS TYPICAL BOARDWALK SECTION. FINAL BOARDWALK & HELICAL PILE DESIGN TO BE COMPLETED BY OTHERS. TYPE OF COMPOSITE DECK, RAILING & CURB TO BE CHOSEN PRIOR TO FINAL DESIGN.
  2. IN AREAS WITH A GREATER THAN 30" HEIGHT ABOVE THE GROUND, BOARDWALK SECTION TO INCLUDE A CODE COMPLIANT RAILING ON BOTH SIDES.

## **BOARDWALK CROSS SECTION**

NOT TO SCALE

# Proposed trail construction method



# Examples of completed boardwalk construction



Farmington Canal Heritage Trail  
Cheshire, CT



Ashokan Rail Trail  
Shokan, NY



# Resource Coordination

- Fisheries – determined that the project will not significantly impact fisheries or habitat
- Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) Determination – not within an NDDB area
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Official Species List – determined there would be no effect on the Northern Long-eared Bat or the Tri-Colored Bat
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Review – determined no concerns
- Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) Review – determined no concerns
- This project includes removal of invasive species and establishment of perennial vegetation in disturbed areas.

# Permitting

- US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Self Verification Permit
- Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Inland Wetlands Permit
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Section 4(f)

# Project Funding

Type of Funding	Total Funding Amount	Federal/State	Local Match
FY23 Community Project Funding	\$1,750,000	\$1,400,000 (Federal)	\$350,000
CTDEEP Recreational Trails Program	\$506,000	\$404,800 (State)	\$101,200
Total Funding	\$2,256,000	\$1,804,800	\$451,200

# Approximate Construction Schedule

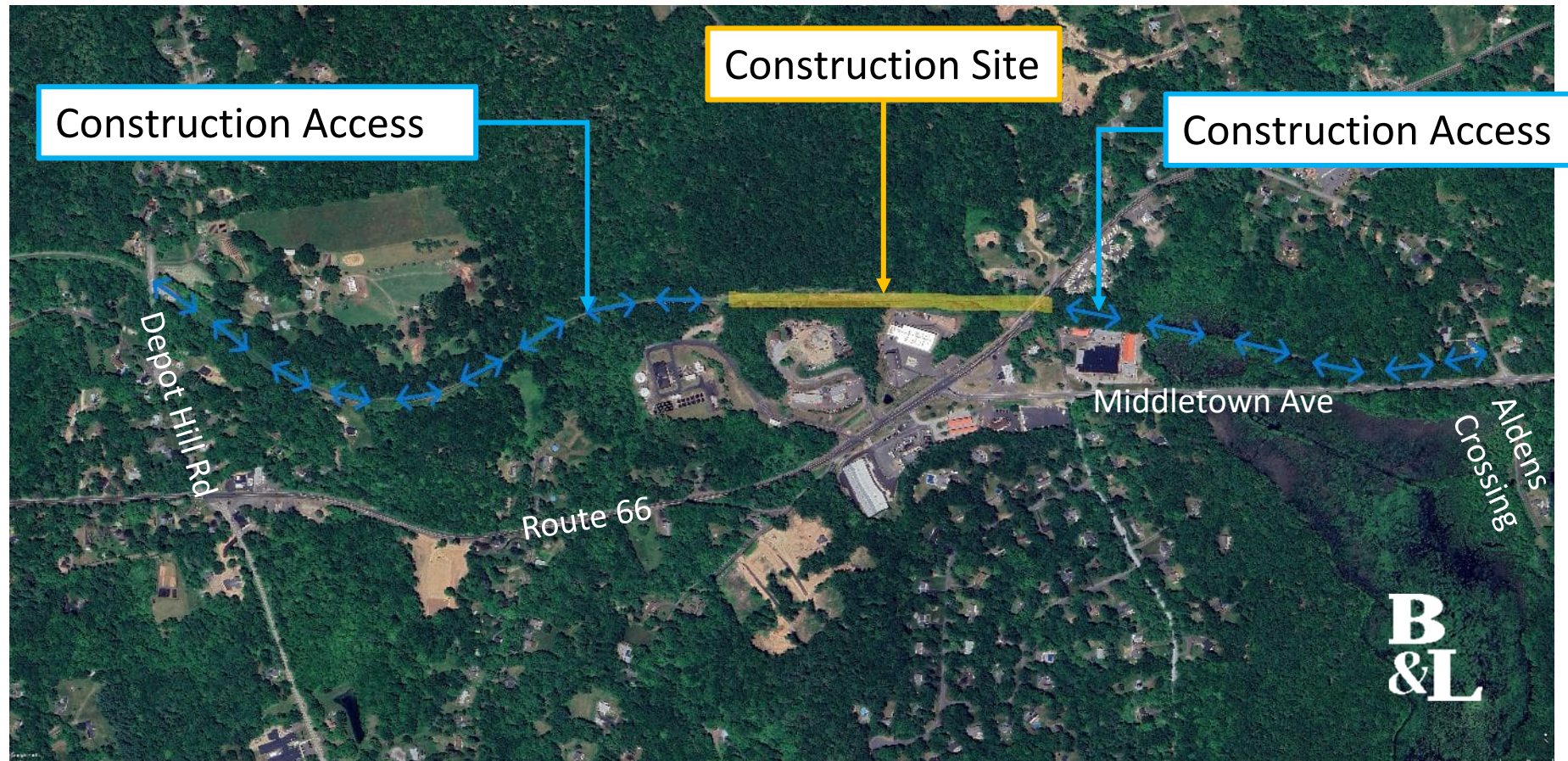
2025 – Complete Design, obtain permits, and project advertise.

2026 – Expected construction start, anticipated construction schedule of 6 – 9 months. Existing utility poles will be removed as a part of this project.



# Construction Access

Portions of the existing trail will be temporarily closed during construction for access to the construction site.



# Trail Maintenance

- Stakeholders:
  - CTDOT
  - CT DEEP
  - East Hampton
- Trail maintained by municipality with support from CT DEEP



# Contact Information

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