

Route 34 Bridge Over the Housatonic River Monroe/Oxford, Connecticut



Description

FHI, under contract to a large engineering firm, prepared the Draft and Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Section 4(f) Evaluation, Section 106 Historic Documentation, historic mitigation reports, and environmental permit applications for Replacement of State Route 34 (Stevenson Dam) Bridge. FHI conducted the full range of National Environmental Policy Act and Connecticut Environmental Policy Act impact analyses for the project, located in an area characterized by heavy recreational use, river and lake environments, history of PCB contamination, threatened and endangered species, and archaeological sensitivity. FHI conducted air quality and noise impact modeling, surveys for Connecticut-listed plant species, a wetland functional assessment, and managed an archaeological reconnaissance survey. FHI served as lead investigator for a Biological Assessment (BA) of potential impacts to the federally-listed bald eagle, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, conducting biological research, interviewing local residents, identify and mapping primary and secondary habitat areas, and formulating conclusions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with the findings of the BA, which opened the door to replacing the bridge in a location upstream of the dam. During the design stages of the project, FHI prepared state and federal environmental permit applications required for project implementation, including inland wetland/watercourses, floodplain management, stormwater discharge, Section 401 water quality certification, and buoy permit applications. To mitigate the adverse effects of the project on the historically significant dam/hydroelectric complex, FHI prepared Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation, pursuant to Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act. Specialized efforts for the HAER included redrawing as-built construction drawings for the dam to avoid infringement of copyright laws.

Client

Connecticut Department of Transportation

