

TOWN OF AVON

\$5,459,458 OLD FARMS ROAD PHASE I (NORTH/SOUTH SECTION) PROJECT (STATE PROJECT NO. L004-0001)

Anticipated Special Town Meeting 11/7/22

Anticipated Referendum Vote 12/14/22

September 2022

Dear Avon Residents:

This brochure provides information on the Old Farms Road Phase I (North/South Section) Project (State Project No. L004-0001) that is proposed for consideration at an upcoming referendum. This brochure includes details of the proposed project for your review and consideration. **The construction of this project will be fully funded by grants. The approval of this project will not have any additional financial impact on Avon taxpayers.**

The Project proposal focuses on the section of Old Farms Road from the intersection with Thompson Road, north to a point approximately 1,700 feet north of the intersection with Scoville Road. The project will include the relocation of the existing roadway approximately 180 feet to the west onto property currently owned by the Avon Old Farms School. The project will include the installation of intersection improvements at the intersection with Thompson Road and a roundabout will be installed at the intersection with Scoville Road. The installation of a multi-use trail along Scoville and Old Farms Roads and other related improvements are also planned. The project will also require a land swap between the Town and Avon Old Farms School whereby the Town will acquire the right of way for the relocated road from the School and quit claim the old road to the School at the conclusion of the project.

The Town has been approved for grants from the State of Connecticut in the amount of \$5,459,458. Construction will be fully funded through these grants. The Town has been awarded a Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) grant in the amount of \$5,110,076. The Town has also been awarded a Community Connectivity Grant in the amount of \$349,382. Soft costs (legal, engineering, etc.) are estimated at approximately \$360,000 and will be funded through an existing appropriation in the Town's capital budget. Per the Town Charter (Sec. 10.3.3(a)(1)), a referendum vote is required due to the amount of the appropriation, regardless of the source of the funds.

At this time, the project is nearing the completion of final design and the Town is in the process of acquiring the permits required to begin construction. Assuming referendum approval, the Town expects to publicly bid the project in January 2023, award the contract in February or March and begin construction in early spring 2023.

It is anticipated that the Town Council will schedule a Special Town Meeting and Referendum to be held on November 7th at 7:00 p.m. and December 14th from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., respectively. The Special Town Meeting will be held at the Avon High School auditorium (510 West Avon Road), or virtually, depending on the state of COVID-19 at that time. The Referendum Vote will be held at the Senior Center (635 West Avon Road). Please visit the Town's website www.avonct.gov for details about the Special Town Meeting and Referendum as the dates approach. A Frequently Asked Questions document has been posted on the Town's website to provide detail beyond what is included in this mailer. If you have further questions regarding the project design, please contact the Town Engineer at (860) 409-4322. If you have further questions regarding the referendum process, please contact the Town Manager's Office at (860) 409-4300.

OLD FARMS ROAD PHASE I (NORTH/SOUTH SECTION) PROJECT (STATE PROJECT NO. L004-0001) PROJECT OVERVIEW

Old Farms Road travels from Route 44 south through the Avon Old Farms School campus and the school's privately owned forest, the Farmington River floodplain and the Town's Fisher Meadows Recreation area before it intersects with Route 10 at its southern terminus. Old Farms Road is at once a rural, bucolic country road and a busy collector roadway, providing a connection between Route 44 and Route 10 for an average of approximately 7,500 drivers per day.

The design of Old Farms Road is inadequate to accommodate the traffic volumes experienced as the road lacks sufficient geometry, width, and horizontal and vertical alignment. This observation is supported by the accident data supplied by the UCONN Crash Data Repository. A total of 135 accidents were reported over the last seven years of data available (2015—2022), including 19 accidents which resulted in injuries to those involved. It is also known that there are accidents within the project area that are not reported due to the prevalence of pieces of mirrors, fenders, light bezels, and other vehicle parts that can be found along the roadway.

After much study, investigation and discussion, the Town identified a feasible, cost effective path forward which involves the division of the project into two parts in order to best leverage available local, state and federal funding sources. The North/South Section (from the Thompson Road intersection heading north) was advanced to the design development phase in January 2017 and final design was completed in fall 2022. The North/South section is the focus of the proposed referendum vote. The East/West Section (from the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail at Thompson Road through the intersection of Thompson and Old Farms Road, and east along Old Farms to approximately 225 feet west of the intersection with Tillotson) is currently in the design development phase and will require a separate referendum approval in a future year.

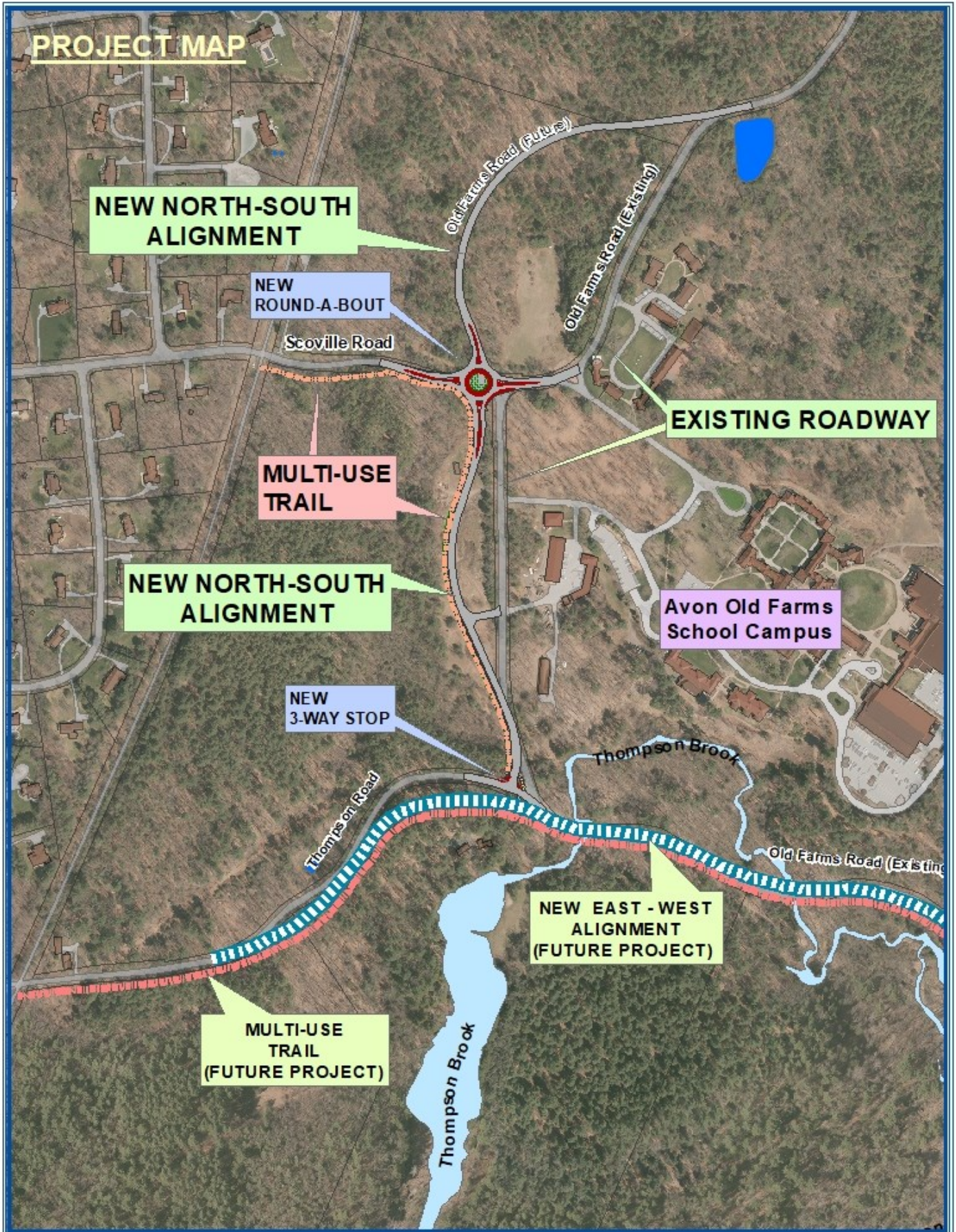
The overarching goal of the Old Farms Road project is to improve the safety of the road for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists while preserving the rural character of the road. This goal will be achieved by improving roadway geometry and the road's horizontal and vertical alignments in order to reduce driver speeds; implementing traffic calming measures including a roundabout at the intersection of Scoville Road and Old Farms; including multimodal amenities such as a multi-use trail adjacent to the roadway to provide a separate travel lane for pedestrians and bicyclists, and; implementing crosswalk treatments at key, high volume crossing locations to improve pedestrian connectivity and safety.

The next several pages provide a project map (page 3) and answers to a number of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (pages 4 and 5) regarding the project. Additional information can be found on the Town's website www.avonct.gov.

SAMPLE QUESTION SIMILAR TO WHAT MAY APPEAR ON THE VOTING MACHINES IF A REFERENDUM DATE IS SET:

*Shall the Resolution Appropriating \$5,459,458 of Grant Funding for Costs Related to the
Relocation and Reconstruction of a Section of Old Farms Road in the Town of Avon be
Approved? YES/NO*

PROJECT MAP



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: What is the scope of this project?

A: The scope of the Old Farms Road Phase I (North/South Section) Project focuses on the section of Old Farms Road from the intersection with Thompson Road north to a point approximately 1,700 feet north of the intersection with Scoville Road. The project will include the relocation of the existing roadway approximately 180 feet to the west onto property currently owned by the Avon Old Farms School, the installation of improvements, such as a roundabout and crosswalk treatments, at the intersections with Scoville and Thompson Roads, respectively, the installation of a multi-use trail along Scoville and Old Farms Roads, and other related improvements. The project will also require a land swap between the Town and Avon Old Farms School whereby the Town will acquire the right of way for the relocated road from the School and quit claim the old road to the School at the conclusion of the project. The map on page 3 illustrates the features of the proposed project.

Q2: Why is this project needed?

A: The primary issue that the project will address is safety for all users. The area experiences an excessive number of accidents when compared to similar corridors in the state. Analysis has shown that the roadway's geometry (the dimensions and arrangements of the visible features of a roadway), narrow lanes, and other roadway conditions contribute to the majority of the accidents. Of all the accidents recorded for the corridor, approximately 91% have factors associated with the substandard conditions of the roadway. The narrow roadway combined with the roadside features confine motorists in the travel lane, thereby eliminating opportunities for accident avoidance. Larger vehicles, including school buses and fire apparatus, experience difficulties navigating the roadway due to the sharp curvature, and narrow lanes. Excessive speeds exacerbate the aforementioned conditions and create a more hazardous roadway. Additionally, the current road is not wide enough to allow for an adequate shoulder for bicyclists and pedestrians to travel safely.

Q3: What is the financial impact of this project on taxpayers?

A: The following is a breakdown of the estimated financial impact of the Old Farms Road Phase I (North/South Section) Project (State Project No. L004-0001). The Town has been approved for grants from the State of Connecticut in the amount of \$5,459,458. Construction will be fully funded through these grants. The Town will not need to issue debt to fund the construction of this phase of the project. As a result, the approval of this project will not have any additional financial impact on Avon taxpayers. Per the Town Charter (Sec. 10.3.3(a)(1)), due to the project cost, a referendum vote is required to approve the expenditure of the state grant funds.

TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS:

DESCRIPTION:

Construction Cost (not to exceed)	\$ 5,459,458
-----------------------------------	--------------

Add: Soft Costs

(i.e. Design cost to date; attorney's fees, referendum costs, etc.)	\$ 360,000
---	------------

TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	\$ 5,819,458
-------------------------------------	---------------------

Less: Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program Grant Funding
(construction cost)

(\$ 5,110,076)

Less: Community Connectivity Grant Funding (construction cost)

(\$ 349,382)

Less: Use of Existing Capital Budget Appropriation (soft costs)

(\$ 360,000)

ADDITIONAL LOCAL TAXPAYER FUNDING REQUIRED

\$0.00

Q4: What will happen if this project is not approved?

A: The construction of this project will be funded by state grants. If the project is not approved, it is likely the Town will forgo these grants and the needed improvements will not be made. The road will still require some level of improvement in accordance with the Town's Pavement Management Plan.

Q5: What impact will this project have on the Town's operating budget?

A: As this project involves the relocation of an existing road, there will be no increase to the Town's operating budget. Funds are included in the Town's operating budget to maintain the existing road, which includes plowing, striping, sweeping, catch basin cleaning, and patching of pot holes. As the new road will be freshly paved at the conclusion of the project, the road will not require resurfacing for many years, allowing the Town to allocate its capital budget for paving to other streets in town.

Q6: How will the Town ensure that the road maintains its rural feel and doesn't turn into a thru-way?

A: The primary goal of the project has been to improve the safety of the road for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists while preserving the road's rural character. Accordingly, the design process has included numerous reviews with the Town Council; Town staff; the Town's third party engineering consultant, Fuss & O'Neill; and the Avon Old Farms School. All stakeholders are invested in maintaining the character of the roadway while addressing the safety concerns that are driving the need for the project.

Q7: How will this project benefit pedestrians and bicycle users?

A: The North/South project will include the construction of a bituminous multi-use trail that will begin on Scoville Road at the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (FCHT). The trail will continue to the intersection with Old Farms Road, and proceed south along Old Farms Road to the intersection with Thompson Road. This trail will be supplemented by a future segment proposed as part of the future Old Farms Road Phase II (East/West) project which will proceed from the Thompson Road intersection, west along the north side of Thompson Road back to the FCHT and create a loop trail approximately 1.25 miles in length. The future East/West component will also include a trail segment heading east along Old Farms Road where it will meet the Town's extensive network of trails in the Fisher Meadows Recreation area.

Q8: Assuming approval at referendum, what is the timing for construction?

A: Assuming approval at referendum on December 14th, the Town plans to place this project out to public bid in early 2023 to secure a contractor to complete the work. We would expect to award a contract in February or March 2023 and begin construction in April or May 2023. We anticipate that the project will take 18 months to complete.

Q9: How disruptive will construction be? Will the road remain open while work is occurring?

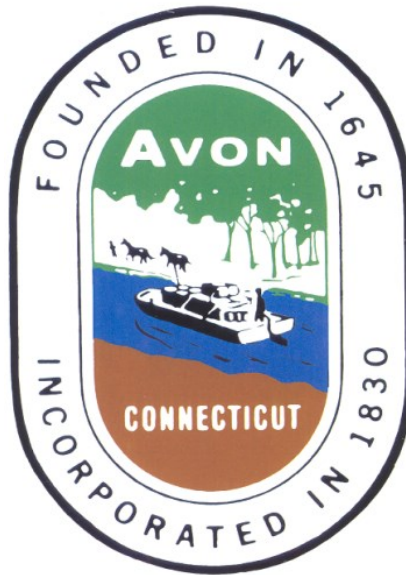
A: Fortunately, as much of the work to relocate the road is taking place outside of the existing roadway, the road will remain open and there will be little disruption to drivers during what is called the "off-road construction." Additionally, as the Avon Old Farms School is the only project abutter, and the construction site is primarily in a wooded area on the campus, there will be little disruption to residents or students during daily activities. Drivers will experience inconvenience while work to tie the new road section into the existing road is being completed at the end of the project. The Town will provide advance notice of any anticipated disturbances on its website and by placing warning signage in the area.

Q10: What is included in Old Farms Road Phase II (East-West) Project? When will it happen?

A: The East-West Section (from the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail at Thompson Road, through the intersection of Thompson and Old Farms Roads, and east on Old Farms Road to approximately 225 feet west of the Tillotson Road intersection) will include realignment within the existing corridor due to the presence of wetlands in close proximity to the roadway. The project will include the replacement of two bridges along the roadway to provide wider lanes and safer passage of vehicles, and a multi-use trail adjacent to the roadway. At this time, the Town is working on the design for this section of the project. We have received a commitment to fund from the state for a Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program grant in the amount of \$3.6 million. The final cost estimates are not available at this time but, based on the design work completed thus far, we anticipate that the Town will need to issue debt to fund the remainder of the project cost. Staff continue to research and apply for grants to offset the local contribution. This project will be the subject of a future referendum vote. Note, the two phases can stand alone if needed.

TOWN OF AVON
60 West Main Street
Avon, CT 06001

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AVON, CT
PERMIT No. 14



**OLD FARMS ROAD PHASE I (NORTH/SOUTH SECTION) PROJECT
(STATE PROJECT NO. L004-0001)**

Anticipated Special Town Meeting

November 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Avon High School (or virtually)

510 W Avon Road

Anticipated Referendum Vote

December 14, 2022 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Avon Senior Center

635 W Avon Road

**Further information about these dates will be posted on the Town's website
www.avonct.gov in due course. **Questions?** Contact the Town Engineer at (860) 409-4322
or the Town Manager's Office (860) 409-4300.**

TOWN COUNCIL

Barbara Ausiello • Jason Indomenico • Heather Maguire • Dan Polhamus, Chairman • Anthony Weber

BOARD OF FINANCE

Margaret Bratton • Carl Gisnarian • Charles Harvell • Brian Loveless • Houston Putnam Lowry
Ellen Retelle • Catherine Salchert, Chair