

Norwalk River Railroad Bridge Replacement Project Environmental Assessment (Cultural Resources) Norwalk, Connecticut



The State of Connecticut is planning the replacement of the historic Metro-North Railroad swing bridge that spans the Norwalk River in Norwalk. The bridge is listed in the Historic American Engineering Record and is part of a National Register of Historic Places-eligible linear district related to the historic railroad and its electrification system. Presently the bridge's soaring high towers carry the overhead catenary system to power the trains. The towers form a distinct part of the multiple historic districts in Norwalk on both sides of the river, with over 80% of the buildings on either side of the bridge potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or already listed. AHS is evaluating the potential effects of various design alternatives on the bridge and the historic built environment, under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Connecticut Environmental Preservation Act. New

approaches, with attendant alterations to neighborhoods, buildings, and character-defining features such as retaining walls, are all being evaluated, as is the anticipated removal of the extant high towers. AHS is preparing Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Evaluation sections, and Section 4(f) documentation.

This project also has geoarchaeological and underwater archaeology components. In addition, AHS is contracted to design and install permanent exhibits on the project's historic and scientific aspects, such as bridge design and the science of archaeology, at several venues.

