

August 8, 2019

Ms. Johnette Davies
National Railroad Passenger Corporation
30th Street Station
2955 Market Street, Mailbox 41
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Subject: Connecticut River Bridge Replacement
Historic Compatibility Assessment and Phase IA Archaeology Assessment
Old Lyme and Old Saybrook, Connecticut

Dear Ms. Davies:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reviewed the documents prepared by Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. for the referenced project. The submitted materials were prepared according to Stipulations II and III of the *Memorandum of Agreement among the Federal Railroad Administration, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), and the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer, Regarding the Connecticut River Bridge Replacement Project in New London and Middlesex Counties* (MOA) executed in August 2016. In fulfillment of Stipulation II, an assessment of historic compatibility of the proposed bridge at the 30% design level was prepared. SHPO concurs with the conclusions of the report and supports the Bascule Option. We look forward to additional opportunities to comment at the 75% design level.

In fulfillment of Stipulation III.A, a Phase IA Archaeological Assessment Survey was completed that included research, field survey, and limited soil borings. The completed assessment identified evidence of prior natural and human made disturbances. As noted in the survey report, a large number of archaeological sites have been identified in areas adjacent to the Area of Potential Effect (APE), including several considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The natural characteristics of the APE are frequently associated with significant archaeological resources. As a result, SHPO concurs with the findings of the report that additional archeological investigations of the project areas are warranted according to Stipulation III.B. Archaeological investigations may be comprised of a variety of methods to provide adequate testing of areas that have a high sensitivity and likely are comprised of intact soils. SHPO also concurs that impacts to Site 105-24, located at the end of the eastern abutment, should be given special consideration.

SHPO appreciates the cooperation of all interested parties in the professional management of Connecticut's significant historic resources and look forward to additional coordination. For additional information, please contact me at (860) 500-2329 or catherine.labadia@ct.gov.

Sincerely,



Catherine Labadia
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer