U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Commander
United States Coast Guard
Fifth Coast Guard District

431 Crawford Street
Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004
Staff Symbol: (dpb)
Phone: (757) 398-6222
Fax: (757) 398-6334
Email: Hal.R.Pitts@uscg.mil
or CGDFiveBridges@uscg.mil

16591
26 OCT 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE D05PN-11-2020

All interested parties are notified that an application dated October 8, 2020, has been received from the City of Philadelphia by the Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District, for approval of the location and plans for construction of a new pedestrian fixed bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Schuylkill River, between mile 6.3 and 6.4, at Philadelphia, PA.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The proposed project is to construct a 3,380-foot long multi-use recreational trail along the eastern bank of the Schuylkill River between Christian Street and University Avenue (2,730 feet along the river and 700 feet connection to the neighborhood). The northern and southern limits of the proposed trail extension will be constructed on the land along the bank of the river, while the middle section of the proposed trail will be a new bridge build over water. The pedestrian bridge (at span 11) will be constructed over the Veolia Peltz Street dock on an alignment that positions the bridge landward of the face of the dock. The proposed construction is an extension of the existing multi-use Schuylkill River Trail. The purpose of the project is to provide the public a safe and efficient recreational facility along the Schuylkill River waterfront within the City of Philadelphia.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

Existing	***Proposed***
None	Vertical Clearance: 14.0 feet above mean high water in span 8 Horizontal Clearance:(normal to axis of the channel) – Not applicable Horizontal Clearance (between piers) 268.9 feet in span 8

Note: ***This bridge has no navigation span (s), given it lies along the east bank of the river and does not cross the navigable waterway. Span 8 provides clearances for vessels to navigate shoreward of the bridge.***

North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) (Existing and Proposed bridges)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead Federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FHWA is acting on behalf of the U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) for all applicable environmental control laws and Executive Orders. The FHWA approved a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) on April 9, 2020. The USCG has tentatively determined that the environmental documentation approved by the FHWA is adequate for USCG bridge permitting purposes and intends to prepare a memorandum to file to document a USCG CATEX. Environmental documents are available for review at the address in the letterhead above, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays), from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The bridge is located in the floodplain. The 100-year flood level is +16.84 feet from datum and low steel of the bridge is +19.07 feet from datum in span 8. Low steel is at or above the 100-year flood level in spans 4 through 8, 10 and 11; and within the 100-year flood level in spans 1 through 3, 9, and 12 through 18. Approximately 67 percent of the superstructure of the bridge is located in the floodplain.

The City of Philadelphia, PA, as a participating member of the National Flood Insurance Program, found the project consistent with City of Philadelphia floodplain regulations in a letter dated September 17, 2020, as a condition of the Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit No. E5101220-003 dated September 21, 2020, approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

A water quality certificate was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection via Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit No. E5101220-003 dated September 21, 2020.

The bridge construction site lies outside of a designated Coastal Zone Management area. The applicant provided the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection with the project location information and a certification of consistency. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection issued a finding on April 10, 2019, that the project is consistent with the state's Coastal Zone Management Plan.

Comments received in response to this notice concerning environmental control laws and Executive Orders will be forwarded to FHWA as lead Federal Agency.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners are requested to provide navigational information, such as the sizes and types of vessels presently owned and operated on the waterway and nature of navigation (including the extent of nighttime navigation) on the waterway. Mariners are requested to comment on the navigational clearances and need for bridge protective systems, clearance gauges, and navigational lighting on the proposed bridge. Please submit the attached response form.

Interest parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of, or opposition to, the proposed project. Comments will be received for the record at the office of Commander (dpb), Fifth Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004 through **November 24, 2020**.

//s//

HAL R. PITTS
Bridge Program Manager
By direction

This is a Web-searchable copy and is not the official, signed version; however, other than the signature being omitted, it is a duplicate of the official version.

Attachments: (1) Response Form
(2) Location/Vicinity Maps and Plan Sheets

Schuylkill River Park Trail
Schuylkill River, between mile 6.3 and 6.4,
at Philadelphia, PA
Preliminary Public Notice D05PPN-11-2020
Response Form

It is requested that anyone having an interest in this proposed project, from the standpoint of navigation, submit vessel information, comments, and recommendations on this form to the office of Commander (dpb), Fifth Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004 by **November 24, 2020**.

Vessel Information	Please provide all requested information:
Vessel Type	
Use – *Commercial and/or Recreational*	
Vessel Height	
Draft	
Length	
Beam	
Tonnage	
Mooring Location	

Name (Optional): _____

Address (Optional): _____

Phone (Optional): _____

Comments and Recommendations: _____

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