

**The I-91 Charter Oak Bridge Project, termed the “congestion buster project,”** improved the long-term congestion at Interchange 29 which connects I-91 Northbound with Route 5/15 Northbound in Hartford, CT. The project has improved safety and extended the service life of I-91 Northbound and Southbound in Hartford and Wethersfield.

Through the “One Team - One Project” approach, whereby the commitment was made to work cooperatively, provide quality work at ALL levels, and to be proactive, prompt, and professional in all communications and transactions, the “congestion buster project” was a huge success. The interchange now provides Connecticut residents, businesses and travelers throughout the Northeast a safe and swift commute.

Interchange 29 was on the annual list of 100 worst bottlenecks in the country. The original ramp was a steep, narrow, single lane ramp that created weaving issues with Route 5/15 Northbound at its intersection on the Charter Oak Bridge over the Connecticut River.

The existing configuration resulted in reduced speeds and 1 ½ mile back-ups on I-91 Northbound that led to numerous crashes and delays.

The reconfiguration of the interchange resulted in a new two-lane diverge ramp with flatter grades to allow for a smoother transition as it aligns with the left side of Route 5/15 Northbound and reduced weaving and queuing on the Charter Oak Bridge.

The Team overcame many challenges throughout the project but none more than the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This caused labor shortages, material delays and impacts to the in-person work environment. Thankfully, with the ability to continue working, expanding the limits of operations due to the lower traffic volumes, adjusting our past practices, creating new practices, and implementation of new technologies, the project remained on schedule and the entire Team remained as productive, if not more productive, than before.



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- ◆ State Project Numbers: **63-703 / 159-191**
- ◆ Start Date: **April 1, 2019**
- ◆ Completion Date: **November 30, 2022**
- ◆ Cost: **\$245 million**
- ◆ Administration: **CTDOT District 1**
- ◆ Contractor: **O&G / BHD Joint Venture**
- ◆ Design: **CHA and HW Lochner**
- ◆ Inspection: **WSP and AECOM**