

NEW HAVEN PORT AUTHORITY

November 3, 2005

Captain Peter J. Boynton
Commanding Officer
U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Long Island Sound
120 Woodward Avenue
New Haven, Connecticut 06512

RE: Request for modifications to 33 CFR §117.213, New Haven Harbor Quinnipiac and Mill Rivers, pertaining to the opening of certain bridges in the City of New Haven

Dear Captain Boynton:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with the Port Authority at our meeting of September 1. As a result of that conversation, I am writing to formally request Coast Guard review and modification of 33 CFR §117.213, relating to the opening of certain bridges in New Haven.

As you know, the State of Connecticut is now reconstructing and expanding the Interstate 95 crossing over the Quinnipiac River. In the short-term, this construction further complicates pedestrian and vehicular mobility between the easterly neighborhoods and suburbs and the center of the city. Moreover, it complicates the intra-city and regional flow of products received at the Port of New Haven.

Our specific concern is the Tomlinson Bridge, which by regulation is opened on signal except at rush hour in the morning and evening. This arrangement makes sense during normal times, even peak travel seasons. However, the I-95 project will create uneven traffic and congestion flows. Likewise, the current regulations fail to account for activities at the port, which at times can generate a large truck movement out of Waterfront Street.

I do not wish to propose redline amendments at this time. Rather, consistent with our discussion, I request that you look closer at the regulations; meet with the Port Authority and with Connecticut DOT; and notify us of your findings and recommendations.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this request and provide us with a reasonable timeline to expect your recommendations. If you need to reach me, do not hesitate to call me direct at (203) 389-5064. Thank you for considering this pressing concern.

Sincerely,

John Russo
Acting Chair

cc: Gary Kassof, USCG Bridge Program Administrator
Steven Korta III, Connecticut DOT
Richard Miller, City of New Haven
file

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