

SCA Public Service Announcement 7-11-2017

Wednesday, July 19th, 2017 - 7pm at the Firehouse, the Town of Branford will hold a public informational meeting on the Federal Railroad Administration's proposed quad track expansion between the Branford Station and the Guilford station.

All residents of Stony Creek are urged to attend as this expansion will have a direct and irreversible effect on every resident of the Creek.

To date, there are no maps of the proposed expansion. If the new tracks are built north of the existing tracks, then an overpass will have to be built to avoid surface traffic on Thimble Island Road. To gain the necessary elevation this massive structure will include miles of wetlands.

If the new tracks are built south of the existing track, thus avoiding the need for an overpass, then Ridge Road will have to be sacrificed.

The expansion was proposed without conducting any environmental studies or research regarding affected historical resources as required by Federal law. IF YOU THINK FEDERAL LAW WILL PROTECT US, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

“A small town with a National Register Historic District of outsized significance, a fragile real estate market, located at the mouth of a very large river which flows into an ecologically-sensitive tidal estuary, a critical habitat for Atlantic Sturgeon, the site of a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) where scientists concern themselves with silting, a place where the busy Northeast Corridor crosses over an outmoded two-track century-old lift bridge, where recreational boaters, commuter rail, and high-speed Acela traffic negotiate schedules limited by bridge openings and closings, a place where the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) plans a new high-speed rail crossing routed through a historic district and promises a bridge and aerial structure that will meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Local residents are told that the project is essential to the health of the Northeast, that the project has no funding, that it likely won't be built for another decade, at least.” Source The Baltimore Sun, 6-26-2017

Is this Branford, Stony Creek, or Guilford? No it was Havre de Grace, Maryland June 26, 2017. The FRA announced a “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI) for the high-speed rail crossing through the town.

The finding of no significant impact means officials do not have to complete a more in-depth environmental impact statement, according to the project website.

**To learn more, you are invited to attend the Branford meeting
Wednesday July 19th, 2017 - 7pm at the Firehouse**