



**STATE UPDATE:**  
**CONNECTICUT DOT**  
*Environmental Planning*

# WHO DOES ENVIRONMENTAL AT CTDOT?



## DOT BUREAU OF POLICY & PLANNING

- *Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) – 3 units*
  - Water/Natural Resources – wetland delineations, listed species surveys, habitat assessments, design review, permit review, environmental write-ups, State/Federal regulatory coordination/consultation lead
  - Water/Noise Compliance – design/plan reviews, construction oversight of environmental commitments and E&S controls, stormwater compliance, noise analysis, coordination with DOT Maintenance, training for District Construction inspectors, MS4 mapping and compliance, lead for permitting of emergency projects.
  - Historic/Documents – cultural/environmental resource review (NEPA/CEPA), Section 106 Compliance (historical, architectural, archeological), 4(f) coordination, oversight of Environmental Documents (EIS, EA, CatEx)

*Environmental Compliance “dirty dirt” Unit is part of the Bureau of Engineering and Construction*

# HIGHLIGHTS/MAJOR EFFORTS



- Pollinator efforts:
  - 2017 legislation required DOT to work with DEEP, DoAg, UCONN to provide roadside pollinator habitat.
  - Established *Pollinator Corridors* some with reduced mowing, others with plantings (2 in each of 4 Districts, ~ 10ac so far).
  - Consideration for enrolling in the Monarch CCAA is still ongoing
- Fisheries:
  - Collaborative effort with State Fisheries to map inland extent of diadromous runs for use in NMFS consultations (EFH)
  - On-going efforts to train Design and Consultant staff on consultation procedures
  - DEEP just completed a 3-year pit tag study on a retrofit culvert (baffles/fishway) demonstrating passage attainment for Brook Trout (results to help inform future designs)
  - Continual effort to develop fisheries enhancement specifications and details



# HIGHLIGHTS/MAJOR EFFORTS



- **Wildlife:**
  - Development of standard protection protocols that streamline NDDB (Natural Diversity Database) review process and consultation and ensure field compliance
  - First living shoreline is currently under design
- **MS4:**
  - Development of a mapping schema of the Department's drainage network
  - Using ESRI collector app to field verify drainage features
  - Conduct condition assessments of drainage assets
  - Development of LID standards & 'feasibility assessment tool' for Designers
- **Asset Management mapping of Noise Barriers**







# CHALLENGES

- Design-Build & Permitting – learning as we go
- NOAA Programmatic Agreements – training for Designers/  
Staff/Consultants/District Staff
  - How to effectively communicate commitments to Contractors and ensure implementation of commitments
- Maintenance operations/training (staff turnover, consistency)
- MS4 mapping – lack of as-built data, field effort



Image: MD-DNR