

*Response from First Selectwoman Jennifer Tooker to Westport Journal's April 18 request for comment on DOT letters about plans for a new maintenance building on Post Road East:*

On behalf of the First Selectwoman, the response is as follows:

The completed construction project for an upgraded CT DOT Maintenance Facility at 900 Post Road East will result in a streamlined, safer, more efficient complex that ultimately benefits our entire community. It will be replacing an obsolete state facility; have ingress and egress on the Sherwood Island Connector, thus alleviating an ongoing traffic issue at its current entrance at 900 Post Road East; and ultimately provide faster response times for snow plowing and roadway repair and clean up.

For context, when a project is initiated and managed by a state agency on state property,

such as this one, it falls under state jurisdiction rather than local town governance. The planning, permitting, and public engagement process is led by the DOT, not the municipality where the project is located. It is neither feasible nor appropriate for the Town to be the public communication resource for state projects.

As we always do, we are committed to an ongoing working relationship with the DOT, and when this project is completed, the DOT assures us that the facility will have appropriate screening/fencing and landscaping to make it visually appealing to neighbors.

Attached are the communications received by this office from the State for the referenced project.

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*Response to the Journal's April 21 request for clarification of first selectwoman's earlier statement:*

We had no issues with the project since the resulting upgrades will benefit the entire community and improve traffic flow in and out of the facility.

We are aware that the construction will be disruptive for the next 16-18 months, as all infrastructure projects are. That said, we have a collaborative relationship with the CT DOT, who has assured us that when the project is complete, it will be visually appealing to the direct neighbors and to the community as a whole.

Any further questions, concerns or feedback can be directed to District 3 Transportation Engineer Scott Adkins, [Scott.Adkins@ct.gov](mailto:Scott.Adkins@ct.gov), with a cc to [selectwoman@westportct.gov](mailto:selectwoman@westportct.gov).