



NAFIS & YOUNG

Civil/Environmental Engineering & Surveying

*Allan S. Young, P.E.
James H. Galligan, P.E.
David L. Nafis, P.E., L.S.
Lawrence K. Secor, CHMM*

ENGINEERING REPORT

July 23, 2026

Carol R. Goldberg, First Selectwoman
Town of Bethany
40 Peck Road
Bethany, CT 06525

RE: Bladen's River Culvert, Bethmour Road, Bethany, CT

Dear First Selectwoman Goldberg:

This report is being sent as a follow-up to today's inspection of the Bladen's River culvert on Bethmour Road. Our inspection was conducted to evaluate if any portion of the road could be opened to vehicular traffic. However, the majority of the culvert has been structurally compromised and we cannot recommend opening any part of the crossing.

Bladen's River divides the towns of Bethany and Woodbridge. The existing culvert transmits Bladen's River under Bethmour Road. The center of the river is the boundary between the Towns of Bethany and Woodbridge. The culvert is a 16-foot diameter corrugated metal structure. It is approximately 30-35 feet in length and has been reported to be approximately 40 years old.

Bethmour Road is a popular and frequently traveled route of the residents of Bethany. It provides convenient access to points south via Route 67 and Route 8. It is also utilized by several commercial businesses in the area including larger vehicles, such as logging trucks. It is imperative that route be opened as soon as possible to minimize economic impact on local businesses.

Bethmour Road was closed to traffic, after the July 3, 2026 storm, by the Town of Bethany Public Works Director upon discovery of a large sinkhole adjacent to the culvert. (see Figure 1). Our inspection revealed a large failure in the culvert wall in the Northbound side of the culvert directly below the sinkhole. (see Figure 2). As a result, we notified the Town and the road was closed to vehicular traffic. As requested, we went back out today to see if there was any potential to open even a small portion of the road to traffic. Unfortunately, when we entered the culvert, we observed a second failure in the Southbound side of the culvert. (see figure 3).



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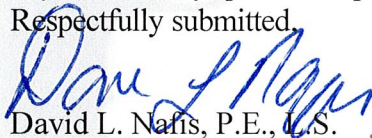
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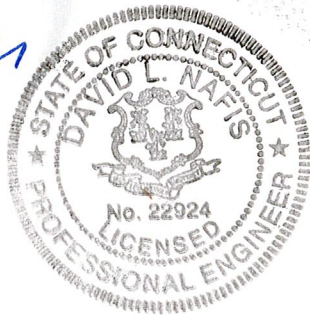
These structural failures indicate that the majority of the culvert has been compromised. Therefore, it is our professional opinion that the road remained closed to all traffic until such time that the culvert can be replaced. Due to the age and damage to the culvert repair is not a viable option. The health and safety of the residents of both towns far outweighs the burden and inconvenience this closure will cause.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Nafis, P.E., L.S.
Nafis & Young Engineers





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Figure 1 Patched sinkhole on East side of road. Photo taken facing North.



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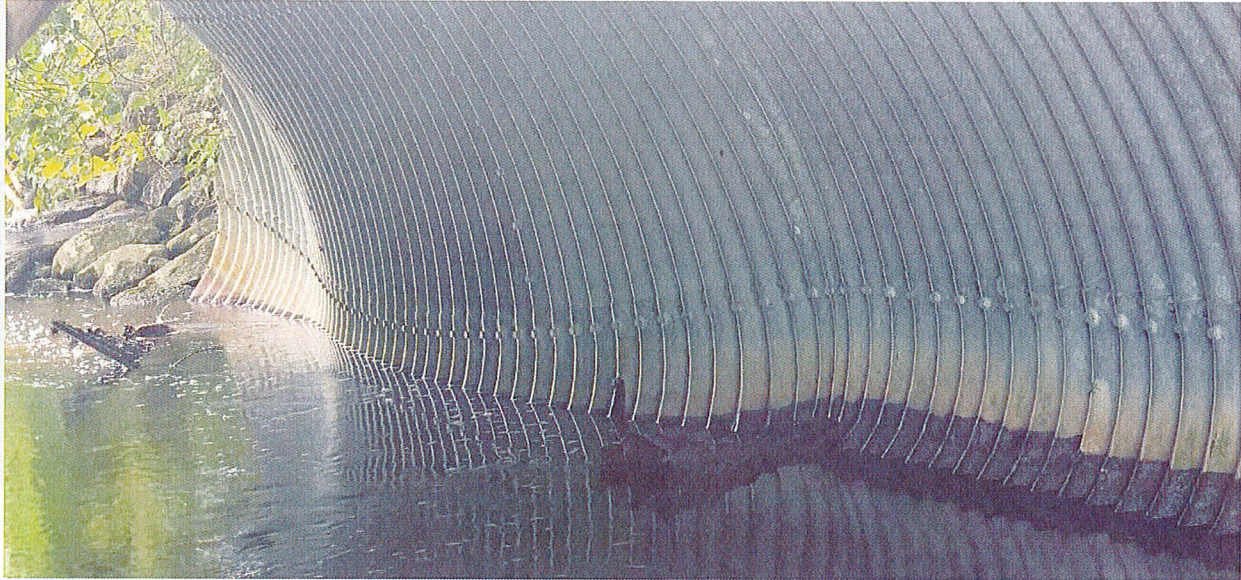


Figure 2 Bulge in culvert below sinkhole. Photo taken facing East.

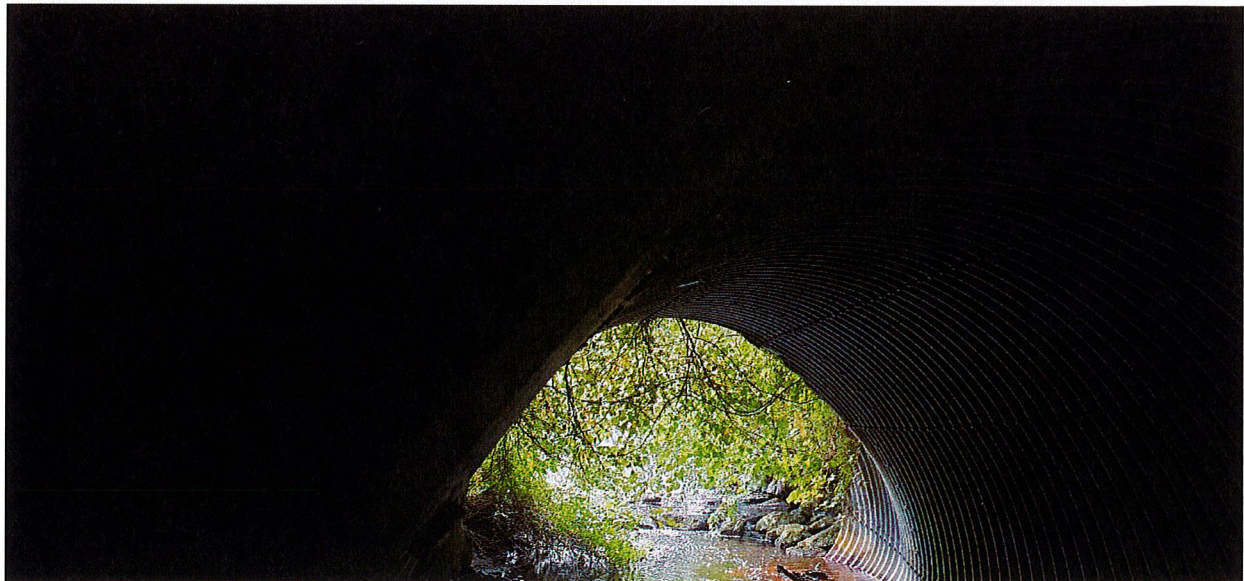


Figure 3 Flat area of culvert beneath Southbound lane. Photo taken facing East.