



LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – JANUARY, 2026

LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS

Current: DPW's Highway Department and Engineering Department are monitoring winter road conditions to determine which road(s) to prioritize in the Spring of 2026.

The scope of roads to be worked on in FY26 will greatly depend on the budget available to do so.

Communication Plan: Letters will go to residents on those streets in the spring road program once the plan has been completed.

Previous: Road projects have been completed for the season. The 2026 spring road program is not finalized. Plans will be finalized after the impact of winter weather on the roads is assessed. The spring road program will be minimal due to the limited FY 2026 road program budget.

CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE

Current: Preliminary engineering is well underway with an anticipated completion date in early spring of 2026. DPW and HEB Engineers will host another public input session following the release of the preliminary engineering documents.

Communication Plan: The next meeting will occur in May at the earliest when summer residents have returned to the area. At this meeting Public Works and the consultant will present the results of the preliminary engineering.

Previous: Preliminary engineering is well underway with an anticipated completion date in early spring of 2026. DPW and HEB Engineers will host another public input session following the release of the preliminary engineering documents.

MILL STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Current: The grant for this project is \$810,000 (no match). The estimated cost of this project came in about \$600k more than the grant for the project. The original project estimate was conducted in February of 2023. DPW will be investigating other means to finance the project or to cut scope dramatically.

Communication Plan: Public Works is managing this project using NHDOT's locally managed project process. The preliminary engineering phase is complete, Public Works will schedule another public information meeting to present the project's proposed alternatives.

Previous: The preliminary engineering for this project has been completed. DPW and HEB will be soon meeting with HUD to begin the NEPA process. Estimated cost of the project exceeds the Federal grant. Public Works and HEB will review the plans and cost and recommend a course of action.

HILLIARD ROAD CULVERT CROSSING

Current: This project is scheduled for construction in Fall of 2027. Preliminary engineering has begun and will take us into next summer.

Communication Plan: Public Works is managing this project using NHDOT's locally managed project process. Therefore, the study phase will include a public information meeting to seek feedback on the project. Once the study phase is complete, Public Works will schedule another public information meeting to present the proposed alternatives of the project to the public.

Previous: This project is scheduled for construction in Fall of 2027. Preliminary engineering has begun and will take us into next summer.

WEIRS BLVD / US ROUTE 3 BRIDGE

Current: DPW, Hoyle Tanner and NHDOT met with the federal team of historic mitigators to determine what course of action should be taken with the portion of the bridge (below grade) that is technically historic. It is likely that we will use those stone blocks to surround some form of signage to honor the historic bridge.

Otherwise, DPW was able to receive NHDOT approval to go ahead and put out to bid the purchase of the precast bridge components that have a very long lead time. This will save money on the project in many ways. More importantly, it guarantees that the components will be ready for installation this October when the contractor will require them for installation.

The project will go out to bid this June with a September 8th 2026 start date / Bridge Closure.

Communication Plan: The project requires temporary construction easements. Public Works and the consultant will be meeting with individual property owners to obtain these easements.

Previous: Construction will begin late summer/early fall of 2026. The project will be going out to bid in the spring of 2026 and be awarded by the end of June. Final design is underway. DPW is working with abutting property owners on easements that will be required by the project. The bridge project will involve widening the bridge to account for a left turning lane into the Langley Cove development. Sections of water main, gravity sewer main and sewer force main will be replaced through the project limits of work.

ELM STREET TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROJECT

Current: DPW, HEB and NHDOT met with the team's ROW specialist to discuss the process of seeking minor easements throughout the corridor. The back of sidewalk needs to move one foot closer to several houses along the east side of Elm street through this project scope.

Communication Plan: This project is currently scheduled for 2028 NHDOT funding.

Previous: DPW and NHDOT have reviewed the engineer's alternatives summary and are moving forward with the final design process.

OPECHEE LOOP

Current: Final pay has been submitted. While there was a \$161,000 savings on the project. More pavement, curbing and sidewalk will be addressed within this budget in the spring. This work will complete the original project's scope of work as well as some additional work in the vicinity.

Communication Plan: Public Works will work with the area's business owners to minimize impact to their businesses.

Previous: The project has been finished for the fall. The project finished two weeks behind schedule and DPW enforced liquidated damages on the bridge contractor. In the spring, flexible visible delineators will be installed on the widened sidewalk over the bridge. While the bridge has received its final pavement, areas to the north and south of the bridge will receive more curb work, concrete sidewalk tip downs and additional pavement.

LACONIA DOWNTOWN TIF DISTRICT

Current: Working on updated Landscaping Plan for Downtown and waiting for update on Lighting Plan and cost for Downtown.

Previous: No update.

LACONIA LAKEPORT TIF DISTRICT

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

WEIRS TIF DISTRICT

Current: RFP for the proposed bandstand has been put out.

Previous: No update.

WINNIPESAUKEE RIVER BASIN PROJECT

Current: The WRBP Advisory Board and some of the member communities' elected officials will have met with the NHDES Commissioner and his team. This meeting took place on January 22nd at the Belknap Mill. A summary of this meeting will be presented to the City Manager.

The WRBP Advisory Board's CIP committee recently met with WRBP and NHDES Staff to review a draft of their 10 year CIP plan.

Previous: NH DES Commissioner responded to the letter of concern. The letter states that member communities' sewer rates are all below the statewide average. The Commissioner also requested a meeting with the Advisory Board and member communities' leaders to discuss concerns and solutions on the management of the program. The tentative date for the meeting is January 22nd. The legislative service request for the replacement fund is now House Bill - 1435 FN. The draft Senate LSR to create a subcommittee to study transferring ownership to an alternate authority has been provided to Senator Lang. NHDES and the Board will work with Senator Lang and our House representatives to amend the replacement fund House bill to include the creation of the subcommittee.

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Current: The SSF is looking into once again establishing a Capital Reserve fund instead of taking a bond to finance Capital Projects. The SSF is working on a more rigorous 10 year Projects List.

Communication Plan: DPW will be making direct contact with all property owners in the project area to coordinate connecting the houses to the City sewer system if their building is within 250 feet of a City sewer main and they are not eligible for a waiver.

Previous: 1000' of new gravity sewer was installed north of Sarasota Lane on White Oaks Rd. 2000' more feet of gravity sewer will be installed in the spring of 2026 and then coordination will begin to have the abutting residents connect to the sewer system.

WEIRS BEACH DOCK RECONFIGURATION AND REHABILITATION PROJECT

Current: The project has reached final completion.

Communication Plan: Public Works will coordinate with the General Manager of the Mount Washington Cruise Line and the Weirs Action Committee during the project.

Previous: The project has reached final completion.

WEIRS BEACH RESTORATION

Current: No update.

Area Impacted: Weirs Beach

Communication Plan: This project will be done in the off season to keep the impacts low. The local newspaper will be notified, as well as the newspapers in northern Massachusetts. This will help spread the word to those who use the area the most.

Previous: No update.

LACONIA MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Current: Existing Conditions Report is complete and we will be having our next meeting on January 29th at 6 PM in City Council Chambers.

Previous: No update.

LACONIA STATE SCHOOL UPDATE

Current: The City Manager will provide an update at the January 26, 2026 City Council meeting.