



LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – SEPTEMBER, 2023

LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR 2023

Current: The Granite Street project began the week of September 18th. The Paugus Street reconstruction project is scheduled to start the 1st week of October. A corrugated metal drainage pipe failed on Hilliard Road. Public Works has contracted with Busby to replace 450 feet of the pipe as well as 4 structures this fall. Remaining work includes installation of the ADA detector plates on Gilford Ave @ Dewey Street and on Summer St, and the hardscape for the ADA pedestrian crosswalk at the Laconia Country Club. The Country Club is purchasing rapid rectangular flashing beacons (RRFB) for the crosswalk. Public Works is coordinating with the Country Club to determine when they anticipate delivery.

Communication Plan: Residents will be notified by mail when the paving schedule is finalized for each road and door hangers will be placed on each property a minimum of 2 days before the date of paving. The paving schedule will be provided to emergency services and the solid waste collection contractor.

Previous: Summer St and its sidewalks have been paved. Remaining work includes installation of the ADA detector plates. Gilford Ave @ Dewey Street will have its concrete and steel plates completed at the same time as Summer St. The contractor is still working on the driveway aprons and swales on Eastman Road. The paving project on Elm Street (Hickory Stick Lane to Parade Road) is complete. The City is working with the Country Club's management on the installation of an ADA pedestrian crosswalk across Elm Street. The Country Club will be purchasing a rapid rectangular flashing beacon system (RRFB) system for the crosswalk. Paugus Street reconstruction project is scheduled to start the 2nd week of September. The Granite Street project will be done in conjunction with the project on Paugus Street.

ACADEMY STREET BRIDGE

Current: HEB Engineers is working on obtaining the easements necessary to construct and maintain the bridge. The plan is to start construction in the spring of 2024 with the closure scheduled to occur during Laconia Public School's summer vacation period.

Communication Plan: The public information session was held on August 31st.

Previous: A public information meeting on the project is scheduled for 6 pm on August 31st at City Hall, Room 200A.

CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE

Current: The charette was held on Saturday, September 16th with about 70 people in attendance. The consultant (HEB) is compiling all feedback into a document. A quick review of the results indicate that most attendees want a bridge, of those the majority want it to look like the current bridge and about half would like to see it wider. One of the abutters stated he was willing to see the bridge 3 feet closer to his house if it meant that the bridge would have two full

lanes in addition to a walking path. Several people suggested that the bridge be a wooden covered bridge.

Communication Plan: The next meeting will occur in approximately two months. At this meeting Public Works and the consultant will present the results of the charrette and initial analysis of those results. At a later meeting Public Works and the consultant will present an analysis of the options with some preliminary engineering to the public.

Previous: The charette has been scheduled for Saturday, September 16th at 10 am at the Weirs Community Center. A charette is a more thorough approach than the standard DOT public interest meeting. This public information technique is being used based on the age of the bridge, proximity of the adjacent buildings and steepness of the approach ramps. The design team will present 4-5 concepts to the public seeking their input.

HIGHLAND STREET BRIDGE

Current: The bridge deck did not have any areas where the concrete had failed. The contractor replaced the curbing that had pulled away from the deck exposing the deck to water and salt. The bridge was completed and opened to traffic on September 6th.

Communication Plan: The public has been informed of the schedule and detour using the Laconia Links, the newspaper, the City's website alert scroll, and those properties in close proximity to the bridge were notified by mail.

Previous: Work began on 8/21. The pavement was stripped that day. Inspection determined the membrane had failed. It was caught early enough that water penetrating through the failing membrane had not yet damaged the concrete around it. The bridge's curb is separating allowing water into the structure. The contractor will fix the curbing, place a new membrane and complete paving in the scheduled 4-week period. (9/11-9/15).

MESSER STREET BRIDGE

Current: The contractor paved the first lane and opened it to traffic. The contractor is removing the concrete from the damaged areas of the other lane. The project should be complete in middle to late October depending on the weather.

Communication Plan: Emergency services and the school bus contractor have been notified on the start of this project. Message boards have been placed onsite notifying drivers of the impending start of work. Updates will be included in Laconia Links.

Previous: All concrete work on the closed lane has been completed. While the concrete is curing the contractor has moved to the Highland Street Bridge. The closed lane's new membrane and paving will be placed in approximately 4 weeks (9/11-9/15) and then the contractor will begin work on the other lane of the bridge.

MILL STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Current: No change. The City is still waiting on approval of the federal budget.

Communication Plan: A communication plan will be developed once the Federal project agreement is finalized.

Previous: No change. The City is still waiting on approval of the federal budget.

WEIRS BLVD / US ROUTE 3 BRIDGE

Current: A public information meeting was held on September 13th. Many attendees were concerned about sediment accumulation in the cove and were worried that the project would send more sediment to the cove. Public Works and the consultant explained that the project would need a permit from NH DES to perform the work and that the permit would include an erosion control plan. The contractor on the project would be responsible to meet the terms of the permit and the work would be inspected by the City's resident engineer during bridge construction. A few people requested that the walkway over the bridge be large enough to accommodate a bike path. The plan is to start construction on the project in the spring of 2025.

Communication Plan: There were approximately 15 residents in attendance at the September 13th meeting. Another public information meeting will be held as the design progresses.

Previous: The project agreement is on the Council's August 28th meeting agenda.

ELM STREET TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROJECT

Current: Elm Street's drainage system has collapsed and is offset in areas. Additionally, the size of the pipe becomes smaller as it approaches the outlet. The system must be replaced as part of the improvement project. HEB, NH DOT and Public Works have been discussing how to include the Elm Street drainage and road reconstruction into the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) project. Public Works will be requesting that the City Council approve a bond to fund that work that cannot be included in the TAP project and the City's 20% matching share.

Communication Plan: The Initial public information meeting for the project was held in July of 2022 to obtain resident feedback on the general concept for the project. Public Works and the consultants will develop a schedule for the project to include when public information meetings will be held.

Previous: An Engineering Study Phase Kickoff Meeting was held with DPW, NHDOT and HEB Engineers on Wednesday, August 23rd.

LACONIA DOWNTOWN TIF DISTRICT

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

LACONIA LAKEPORT TIF DISTRICT

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

WEIRS TIF DISTRICT

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

WINNIPESAUKEE RIVER BASIN PROJECT

Current: The WRBP Advisory Board's meeting with NH DES on September 7th was rescheduled to September 19th.

Previous: The WRBP Advisory Board's meeting with NH DES on September 7th to discuss the Board's issues with the Department's budgeting process.

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Current: There are issues with the quality of Park Construction's paving. DPW and CDM Smith Engineers are resolving issues with what areas of the new pavement need to be redone. The problem will be solved this fall. The Northern Lakeport Sewer project is near completion. Park Construction will finish all their sewer connections the week of September 18th. The week of September 25th they will begin final repairs of the trenches. The Contractor has not provided a paving schedule. The monthly project meeting is scheduled for September 21st. The contractor at the meeting should be providing their plan for finishing the project before winter.

Communication Plan: Park, the contractor for the Northern Lakeport project, will be notifying the property owners a minimum of one day before they cross a driveway. The contractor will keep Public Works and Emergency Services informed of their work schedule and updates will be included in the Laconia Links.

Previous: Park Construction has completed the sewer main and services along North St. They are now working up Belvidere St. replacing sewer main. Final paving has been completed on Elm Street from Hickory to Bell (phase 2 Elm St Sewer Project).

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: No update. Committee membership needs to be reviewed; new members need to be appointed.

Previous: No update. Committee membership needs to be reviewed; new members need to be appointed.

NATIVE AMERICAN SCULPTURE

Current: The statue is finished with the engineering phase, and they are going to have to remove the current base of the old statue. Once completed, they will pour a concrete pad with posts (not rebar, I don't believe) to hold the structure. They need extra posts to hold the statue in place as it is significantly lighter, and wind is a factor at Opechee.

Area Impacted: The most impacted area will be the track, field and parking lot at Opechee Park. There may be a slight disturbance on North Main Street when the statue arrives, but that will be brief.

Communication Plan: There will be a large press release and coverage by many for this project. It has been years in the making and we will want to make a big splash. Newspapers, new channels and Laconia Links will all be notified of this event.

Previous: No update.