



LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – OCTOBER, 2023

LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR 2023

Current: Hounsell Avenue shim and overlay has been completed. Paugus Street and Granite Street are nearly complete and will be paved by October 27th. The Beacon Street West parking lot started on October 20th and should be complete by October 25th. Hilliard Road's failed drainage pipe will be temporarily patched for the winter. The failed metal culvert which is approximately 400 ft long will be replaced in the Spring of 2024. Remaining work includes installation of the ADA detector plates on Gilford Avenue @ Dewey Street and on Summer Street.

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: 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.

ACADEMY STREET BRIDGE

Current: Just compensation has been calculated for the easements needed to construct and maintain the bridge. DOT is reviewing the compensation proposal.

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

Previous: 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.

CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE

Current: HEB Engineers is still in the process of finalizing a summary of the comments from the September 16th charrette.

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 an 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 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.

HIGHLAND STREET BRIDGE

Current: The bridge project is complete. This is the last report for this project.

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: 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.

MESSER STREET BRIDGE

Current: The last concrete pour for the deck occurred the week of 10/16. The week of 10/23, the concrete curb will be poured, as well as the new membrane laid on the deck. The contractor's plan is to have the bridge paved and fully operational by November 3rd.

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: 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.

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: Hoyle Tanner Engineers is still in the process of finalizing the comments and report from the September 13th public information meeting.

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: 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.

ELM STREET TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROJECT

Current: HEB Engineers, NH DOT and Public Works have determined that the Elm Street drainage improvements should be wrapped into the multiuse path/sidewalk improvement contract. By having the same contractor responsible for both sidewalks and drainage, the contractor can start at Franklin Street and work their way to the end of the project by the Elm Street School. Though the drainage work will have to meet Federal contracting and real estate regulations, this concept should save both time and money. The present concept is to complete this project in a single construction season.

The drainage from the Elm Street Bridge to Fairmont Street was replaced/upgraded as part of the 2008 Elm Street Bridge construction project. Presently there are 18" and 15" drainage pipes between the bridge and Franklin St. CDM Smith Engineers' drainage design replaced the 15" pipe with 18" inch between the bridge and Franklin St. DPW has requested that CDM Smith review their hydraulic study to determine the impact of not upgrading the 15" drainage pipe to 18".

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: 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.

LACONIA DOWNTOWN TIF DISTRICT

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

LACONIA LAKEPORT TIF DISTRICT

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

WEIRS TIF DISTRICT

Current: The next meeting of the Weirs TIF District Advisory Board is on October 19, 2023.

Previous: No update.

WINNIPESAUKEE RIVER BASIN PROJECT

Current: The DES finance office and WRBP program manager briefed the board on their budget development process. Although helpful in developing a municipality's annual budget, it did not provide the member communities with a plan on how they will update their process for the significant increases in their annual program associated with equipment replacement

projects that individually are under the limits of a capital improvement program, but due to the cost of these projects as a whole should be in the capital improvement program. The Board is in the process of developing a letter to send to the Director of DES' Water Division.

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

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Current: Paving on the Northern Lakeport and Elm Street projects will be complete by October 20th. Elm Street's northbound lane from Bell Street to Hickory Stick will be overlayed from the curb to centerline. The contract's specifications only required the contractor to pave the cross trenches. Since the cross trench paving did not meet specifications, a portion of this work is warranty and is being paid by the contractor, The Sewer Department will be paying the remaining cost of overlaying the northbound lane which is about \$28,000.

Public Works convinced NH DES that based on the impact of the project on the roads in the Northern Lakeport project area, areas of the road over and above the requirements in the construction and loan contracts should be paved. The additional pavement is estimated to cost \$60,000, however, the project will still be well under budget.

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: 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.

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.

Previous: Committee membership needs to be reviewed; new members need to be appointed.

NATIVE AMERICAN SCULPTURE

Current: No update.

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: 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.