



LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – DECEMBER, 2023

LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR 2023

Current: All road projects have been completed. The contractor is working on those punch list items that can be done during the winter. The remainder will be completed in the spring. Public Works has begun the effort to award those projects that will be funded by the \$2 million bond that was recently approved by the City Council. Two of the projects that will be funded by the bond are the reconstruction of Appleton Street and Old North Main Street from Marshall Court to its north intersection with Parade Road. Engineers have been selected for both projects and engineering has begun. The initial plan is to reconstruct the roads in the fall of 2024. The Appleton Street project may occur in the spring of 2025 as a new drainage pipe will have to go under NH DOT's railroad tracks which may cause a delay due to obtaining the necessary permits. Public Works met with Laconia Water Works to coordinate the plans for the next construction season as Laconia Water Works has old pipe under some of the planned streets.

Communication Plan: Public Works will hold public information meetings during the design process for the neighborhoods impacted by the reconstruction projects. 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 for those roads that are only being overlayed. The paving schedule will be provided to emergency services and the solid waste collection contractor.

Previous: The Hilliard Road drainage pipe that failed has been replaced and the cut paved.

Depending on the impact of the winter, the 2024 Road Program will include Old North Main from Marshall Court north to Parade Road (reconstruction), Spring Street (shim/overlay), Fenton Ave (overlay), Whipple Ave. (shim/overlay + sidewalks).

ACADEMY STREET BRIDGE

Current: The City began making the offers to the adjacent property owners to obtain the necessary temporary and permanent rights of way necessary for the project.

Communication Plan: Once NHDOT has approved award of the project. Public Works will hold a public information meeting on the construction schedule and will coordinate with emergency services.

Previous: NHDOT has approved the just compensation proposal. Property Valuation and Right-of Way are scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2023. The project is on schedule to go out to bid by mid-March 2024

CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE

Current: HEB is currently working on various engineered alternatives. This will take several months. HEB plan is to alternatives presented to the City in mid-March 2024. and the neighborhood in May or June when the summer residents are back.

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: DPW met with NHDOT on a plan to waive the 22' bridge height requirement to 17' 6". The bridge is currently 17' high. The 2020 Endicott Street North bridge replacement project over the railroad line has a 17' 6" bridge height above the tracks. HEB is preparing the waiver request for the City. Early approval of the waiver by the DOT Commissioner would simplify the design process and save time and money.

DPW, HEB, NHDOT and Bureau of Rail met with Patriot Rail (Jacksonville, FL) who has the lease for the rail lines used by the Winnipesaukee Scenic Railroad. Patriot Rail was briefed on the project and they provided their procedures for scheduling work in the railroad right of way.

MESSER STREET BRIDGE

Current: The bridge project is complete.

Communication Plan: Complete.

Previous: The bridge project is complete.

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

ELM STREET TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROJECT

Current: NHDOT, HEB and DPW are meeting on site to walk the proposed engineering alternative. The 8' multiuse trail will be on the West side of the street. There will be very little impact to the East side of Elm Street. The main focus for the next 6-8 weeks, is to determine if the TAP program will cover any of the drainage relocation costs or if the City must pay for all of the drainage work.

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 public information plan for the project.

Previous: HEB will be presenting preliminary engineering results to Public Works and the WOW organization in December and to the City Council in January.

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: The Weirs TIF District Advisory Board met on Oct 19th, 2023. Their top priorities remain the Weirs Beach restoration and the Public Dock reconfiguration. They are curious if the BIG Grant can be obtained again as it expired before the docks were reconfigured. They are also curious if the Dock Reconfiguration, the Dock re-decking (which was a CIP item), and the Beach Restoration should be one large project.

Finally, the Committee would like the entire list of the Weirs TIF Proposed Development Activities to be shared with the City Council before the next TIF meeting in April of 2024.

WINNIPESAUKEE RIVER BASIN PROJECT

Current: NH DES at the January Board meeting will update members on their plans to include the cost of deferred maintenance into their lang range funding planning system.

Previous: The Board sent a follow up letter to the NH DES, Water Division Director to continue the effort to improve the WRBP's budget planning process. The Board is requesting that funding for deferred maintenance projects be planned for the next 5 years and the plan be submitted for review by the Board. Additionally, the Board requested a budget summary for the past 5 years to help the member communities in developing their sewer fund budgets.

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Current: Public Works has requested the contractor price the Briarcrest force main replacement project. The force main will go up Wellington Rd. Briarcrest intends to repave Wellington in 2024 after the force main is replaced.

The cross-country sewer pipe that is just north of Lexington Road and runs from Rt 106 /Parade Road goes through the wetland area to Leewood Drive has separated and ground water from the wetland area is entering the pipe. It was discovered in our routine cleaning/camera program. This design and permits for the projects have been completed and obtained. The project will be done this winter to minimize damage to the wetlands and it will take about 3 weeks to complete. Sewage will be pumped past the project site during the project.

Communication Plan: Property owners impacted by the pipe replacement project in the wetlands area will be contacted to ensure they know the schedule and to minimize any disruptions to the neighborhood.

Previous: There is a 220' section of sewer pipe that will be replaced this winter. It starts just off the shoulder of Parade Rd. and ends on Leewood Dr. It is a challenging cross country run that must be done in the winter as the project is in a swamp/wetland area.

Engineering has been completed on the Briarcrest Estates Sewer Pump Station Force Main. The current force main is 4" Schedule 40 PVC that goes up Wellington Dr. It has glued ends and current code doesn't allow this. The new force main will be 1900' of 6" SDR11 HDPE. The plan is to have a contractor replace the force main in the spring of 2024. Briarcrest Estates plans to pave Wellington Dr. soon after the sewer work is complete.

The Northern Lakeport Sewer Project reached Substantial Completion on November 2nd. They have demobilized and we do not anticipate much of a contractor presence in the spring. There will be some landscape and pavement touch up, and final road paving.

WEIRS BEACH RESTORATION

Current: An email has been sent to NHDES to set up a meeting with the City Manager and Parks Director to discuss possible options for this project with the least amount of impacts.

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: The Parks & Recreation Department will move the sand (not in the water) from the channel side of the beach to the boardwalk side. This will help the beach on the boardwalk side be fresher and more inviting. It is also a way to keep our sand at the beach. This project will be done in the spring as early as possible to not impact beach goers. This is the only plan we can do without wetland approvals.

LACONIA MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Current:

Previous: The Master Plan Committee needs to be appointed to begin review of the Master Plan to determine which, if any, chapters are in need of updating.

NATIVE AMERICAN SCULPTURE

Current: The engineers are now concerned about the statue being brittle in the cold weather and will be testing it in the coming weeks. They are thinking they will be ready to install the statue this spring. That is not a guarantee though.

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.