



LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – FEBRUARY, 2024

LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR 2023

Current: Engineering for Appleton St and Old North Main St projects is ongoing, and on schedule. DPW is coordinating with NHDOT Rail on a new drainage crossing under the railroad tracks as part of the Appleton St project. The Church Street bridge joint replacement project is scheduled for April. The contractor's plan is to work on one lane at a time, thus keeping the bridge open for traffic.

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 plan for spring work includes Old Prescott Hill Road (town line to new pavement at its north end – plans underway), Woodvale Drive (Wentworth Cove to Endicott East - shim/overlay), Wentworth Cove Rd (Summit to Woodvale reclaim/pave), and Pendleton Road (Endicott East to End - shim/overlay).

The roads planned for after July 1st are Old North Main St (The southern intersection with N. Main to Village - mill/overlay), Daisy Gardner (shim/overlay), and Whipple Ave (sidewalks).

Capital projects which will be funded by the transportation bond are Appleton St (reconstruction/drainage), Old North Main St (Parade Rd to Village Ct.- reconstruction), Church Street Bridge (joint replacement) and Manchester St (replacement of box culvert).

ACADEMY STREET BRIDGE

Current: All easements and environmental permits necessary for the project have been obtained. NHDOT has agreed to procure and provide two new message board signs to be used on this project (for Laconia DPW to own) and for the next two bridge and the TAP projects. The message board purchase is a 80/20 cost share. This is to minimize the number and cost of contractors providing message boards on this project and future NHDOT funded projects in Laconia. The project is scheduled to go out to bid in mid to late March.

Communication Plan: Once NHDOT has approved the award of the project, Public Works will hold a public information meeting on the construction schedule and will coordinate with emergency services. The bridge will be completely closed for construction from June 24th to August 30th. Students return to school on September 3rd. Message boards will be placed on either side of the bridge two months before the bridge closure. We will place a full-page ad with a map of the detour plan in the Laconia Daily Sun several days prior to the start of the project. We will also contact Google Maps staff to include this detour in their mapping system during the projected closure period.

Previous: Two of the four easements needed for the project have been obtained. The other two should be obtained shortly. NHDOT is working with the Division of Historical Resources and DES to Finalize the National Environmental Protection act (NEPA) documentation. The project is scheduled to go out to bid in Mid-March. The bridge will be completely closed for construction from June 24th to August 30th. Students return to school on September 3rd.

CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE

Current: HEB is processing extensive survey data for this project. Laconia DPW has delayed processing by a month to prioritize HEB's resources towards other City projects. They will be presented in a "Public Input Session" on May 16th at 6pm. At that meeting, HEB will present the information gathered about the project site, summarize the Charette and provide another opportunity for public input. After that, HEB and DPW will work on developing the "Purpose and Need". That is, the selecting the alternatives to be studied based on the public's input. Per federal regulations alternatives should not be presented prior to the May 16th Public Input Session.

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: HEB is currently working on various alternatives for the bridge. HEB will submit alternatives to the City for review and comment in mid-March 2024 and the team will hold a public information meeting for the neighborhood's residents in May or June when the summer residents are back.

MILL STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Current: The Federal budget has not been approved. Public Works has identified the two possible owners of the retaining walls on private property adjacent to the east side of the bridge that need repairs. Public Works is working with the owners to resolve the ownership issue so that the retaining walls can be repaired.

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

Previous: No change. The City is still waiting for approval of the Federal budget.

WEIRS BLVD / US ROUTE 3 BRIDGE

Current: Four abutters of the project attended the February 15th meeting. The chosen alternative for the bridge is a four-sided box culvert with a 14' clear span and 63' of overall width. The width of the bridge will allow for Langley Cove Development's turning lane as well as an 8' bike path. Construction is anticipated to occur in the Fall of 2026. The "Engineering Study" phase of the project is complete. Preliminary Design, Permitting and ROW has now begun and is scheduled to be completed in April 2025.

Communication Plan: Four abutters of the project were in attendance at the February 15th meeting. The 2/15/24 presentation can be found on the Laconia DPW website.

Previous: Hoyle Tanner and DPW will present the proposed alternatives for the bridge to the public at an information meeting on February 15th at 6 pm.

ELM STREET TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROJECT

Current: Based on the design and scope of work, construction will take place over two full construction seasons. The scope of the project includes road reconstruction, new drainage, new water mains, new curbing, and new sidewalks. The SSF will be responsible for 50% of the road reconstruction. The general fund will be responsible for the 2nd half of the road plus 100% of the drainage. The below numbers represent an estimate of the cost share of the project.

Non-participating costs

Sewer = \$517,500

DPW = \$1,022,500 (will need to be Bonded)

Water = \$740,000

TAP total of participating costs

City (20% share) = \$525,600

State/Fed (80% share) = \$2,102,400

Communication Plan: A Proposed Action Meeting will be held in City Hall on February 28th, at 6pm. More than 70 abutters received certified mail invitations.

Previous: NHDOT's contribution to the drainage and paving elements of the project will be negligible. The City will need to bond the drainage on the project. HEB is evaluating the scope of work, and the cost of drainage and road reconstruction from Franklin to Hickory Stick. The intention is for work to be included as part of the TAP project so the contractor can perform all the work at the same time. The next public outreach meeting will be held in February or March of this year.

OPECHEE LOOP

Current: Paugus Properties has contracted with HEB Engineering to design the "Lakeport Promenade /Opechee Loop" on Elm Street from Union Ave to Doris Ray Ct. Final designs are to be completed by March 8th. DPW is working with HEB, the Mitchell Group, abutters and Paugus Properties to formalize a contract/agreement for City to accept the project for ownership/operations/maintenance.

The NBRC grant funded project to extend the Opechee Loop from Doris Ray Ct. to Franklin St will go out to bid by the end of March 2024 for construction this summer.

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 will submit its next biennial budget (FY26 & FY27) in September. NHDES and WRBP's administrator are projecting a 12% to 15% budget increase for FY 2026. The increase is due to maintenance and repairs associated with the age of the plant and the pay/grade changes necessary to recruit and retain employees. NHDES anticipates that the program members should have a preliminary budget in August to assist in the development of municipal budgets.

Previous: The budget meeting with NH DES' Water Division Director is scheduled for January 22 at 2 pm.

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Current: The engineering of the Briarcrest force main is in the final stages. The replacement of the Briarcrest force main has been delayed as the SSF prioritizes its limited capital funds.

The February 28th Public Works Committee meeting will consider Public Works options for sewage systems crossing municipal boundaries. Developers in Belmont and Meredith are interested in connecting to the City's sewer system and the developer of the Lady on the Lakes development on White Oaks Road wants to connect to Gilford's system.

The SSF is exploring the possibilities of installing gravity sewer on White Oaks Road as a joint project with the "Lady of The Lakes" developer. Having gravity sewer from 398 to 792 White Oaks could immediately add 83 users. Preliminary public outreach has been very well received.

The "Swamp Sewer" (from Parade Road to Bell Hill Road) replacement project is complete. The contractor is cleaning up the site.

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: Briarcrest's pavement plan for 2024 may include Wellington Drive. If the Association is paving the road, the City may replace the force main prior to their project. The force main replacement project will cost just over \$400,000. A 220' section of sewer main that goes from RT106 to Bell Hill Road and traverses a swamp has failed. Engineering has been completed and the permit submitted to DES. Pending permit approval, Busby Construction is planning on beginning the work the last week of January or first week of February. The project will take approximately three weeks to complete.

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: No update.

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: No update.

LACONIA STATE SCHOOL UPDATE

Current: The most recent information received is that the closing for the sale of the State School property will be on March 13, 2024.

Previous: The City Manager provided information regarding the State School at the January 22, 2024 Council meeting.