



## **LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – MARCH, 2024**

### **LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS**

Current: Wentworth Cove Road will be paved this spring. Summit Ave. will likely happen in conjunction with Wentworth Cove. The paving of Woodvale is postponed a year while Public Works determines the feasibility of extending public sewer on Woodvale. Old Prescott Hill Road will be paved after Water Works completes the water line extension.

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: 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.

### **ACADEMY STREET BRIDGE**

Current: The project is still on schedule to go out to bid March 25<sup>th</sup>. No other updates at this time.

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 24<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>. Students return to school on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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: 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.

## **CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE**

Current: No update.

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 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> Public Input Session.

## **CHURCH STREET BRIDGE**

Current: This project initially was only an expansion joint replacement. Closer inspection determined that the bridge decking, especially near the sidewalk, has some failures. The entire expansion joint will be replaced this year. The downstream half of the bridge will be repaired this year. Depending on the extent of damage determined after the removal of the asphalt, Public Works will develop the plan and schedule for the upstream half of the bridge.

Communication Plan: All abutters were contacted by telephone as well as mailings. The Downtown Group was notified by e-mail and a notice was in the Laconia Daily Sun from March 12th to the 16<sup>th</sup>. Message boards were placed warning drivers of the upcoming work on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **MILL STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

Current: The funding for this project was in the Federal budget that was recently approved. The grant project is fully funded and is part of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Economic Development Program. Congressman Pappas's office Informed the City that HUD is reviewing the project and that the City can expect guidance by the end of April 2024.

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

Previous: 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.

## **WEIRS BLVD / US ROUTE 3 BRIDGE**

Current: We are awaiting Hoyle Tanner's summary of the project meeting.

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

Previous: Four abutters of the project attended the February 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **ELM STREET TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROJECT**

Current: The February 28<sup>th</sup> proposed action meeting was very well attended. Standing room only. HEB's is preparing the summary of the project meeting.

Communication Plan: Comments from the meeting will be added to the City's project website once the consultant completes them.

Previous: 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### **OPECHEE LOOP**

Current: HEB completed the final Promenade designs on March 8<sup>th</sup>. DPW is awaiting City Manager guidance on what, if any, participating funds there will/will not be available for this project.

The NBRC Grant portion of the loop, from Doris Ray Court to Franklin St is on hold until funding issues with the Promenade are resolved. This NBRC project must occur in late summer/early fall 2024. This project cannot go any later than that as we will lose our grant money on the project.

Previous: 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: The Planning Office is working on setting up a meeting with the Downtown TIF District Advisory Board; there is no scheduled date at this time.

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 Advisory Board has not met since the last project update. The WRBP's administrator is working on plans to modify the water lines and City's sewer lines in the Water Street pump station compound. These lines go to buildings in the compound that are no longer in use or maintained. The administrator does not have a cost estimate yet. The cost of modifying the City's sewer system will likely be passed to just the City.

Previous: 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.

## **SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM**

Current: The SSF has begun its annual sewer pipe cleaning and lining program. Public Works estimates that this year's program is over \$500,000.

Communication Plan: The contractor notifies the residents the day before the scheduled cleaning of sewer lines in a street.

Previous: 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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 expected closing date for the sale of the State School property, originally scheduled for March 13, was delayed due to issues with financing. A new closing date has not yet been announced.

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