



## LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – JULY, 2024

### **LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS**

Current: Old Prescott Hill Road and Daisy Gardener Road are complete. Engineering for Appleton St and Old North Main is ongoing. The consultants are working on obtaining the required DES permits for these two reconstruction projects. Sections of Pickerel Pond Road have been reclaimed. Additional stone and reclaimed asphalt from other City projects were added to the reclaimed areas to improve the road's base. The contractor is cleaning drainage ditches in areas along Pickerel Pond Road.

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: Final inspections have been completed on Pendleton Rd, Wentworth Cove Rd and Summit Ave. Those projects are complete. Paving and site cleanup of Old Prescott Road will be completed by the end of June. The design for the northern section of Old North Main and Appleton Roads continues. Staff met with the consultant on Old North Man to review drainage issues between Marshall and Village Courts. The consultants are working on obtaining DES permits for these two reconstruction projects. Pickerel Pond road is over a mile long. Some areas are in bad enough shape that it will interfere with snow plowing. Public Works is planning to convert these sections to gravel and add asphalt millings from other projects to improve the road until such time there are sufficient funds to upgrade the road.

### **ACADEMY STREET BRIDGE**

Current: The bridge was closed to traffic on July 8<sup>th</sup>. The pavement was removed from the bridge on July 12<sup>th</sup>. The bridge is scheduled to reach substantial completion by August 30th when the bridge will be opened to vehicular traffic. Students return to school on September 3rd.

Communication Plan: Message boards were placed and are active. The detour for the project was in the Laconia Daily Sun for a week. Google Maps has been notified of the closure.

Previous: The Academy Street Bridge project has been awarded to George R Cairns & Sons Inc. out of Windham, NH. Construction and bridge closure will begin near the end of June. The bridge will be open for vehicular traffic by August 30<sup>th</sup>. Pedestrian access over the bridge will be maintained for the duration of the project.

### **CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE**

Current: DPW met recently with representatives from NHDOT to include their Bureau of Rail, and HEB Engineers to discuss the required bridge clearance of 22.5 feet over the railroad tracks. NHDOT may not grant a waiver for the required clearance. If a waiver is not approved,

the bridge will need to be raised or the tracks lowered. HEB's Engineering Study Phase is ongoing.

Communication Plan: The next meeting will occur no earlier than this fall. At this meeting Public Works and the consultant will present the results of the study to include analysis of the options with some preliminary engineering.

Previous: DPW is awaiting HEB's Engineering Study Results.

### **CHURCH STREET BRIDGE**

Current: This project is complete.

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>.

Previous: This project is nearing completion. Paving is currently scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>. The bridge will be open to two-way traffic after the paving is completed. Final work includes installation of the gasket in the replaced joint and cleanup. Any work conducted after June 18<sup>th</sup> will be one-way alternating traffic flaggers.

### **MILL STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

Current: Laconia DPW is in the process of working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on defining the scope of work for the project and creating an authorization to proceed document. HUD has not yet provided City Staff with the documentation and program guidance to initiate this project. This project is fully funded through a HUD Economic Development Grant via a congressionally directed spending project sponsored by Congressman Chris Pappas.

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

Previous: Laconia DPW is in the process of working with the Federal Governments Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on defining the scope of work for the project and creating an authorization to proceed document. This project is fully funded through a HUD Economic Development Grant via a congressionally directed spending project sponsored by Congressman Chris Pappas.

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

Current: DPW is waiting on Hoyle Tanner's scope and fee for the Preliminary Engineering phase of the project. The project is currently scheduled for the fall of 2026. The entire bridge will be closed to through traffic for the duration of the project.

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: DPW and NHDOT have approved Hoyle Tanner's Engineering Study. DPW is awaiting Hoyle Tanner's scope and fee for Preliminary Engineering of the project.

## **ELM STREET TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROJECT**

Current: DPW and NHDOT have approved HEB's Engineering Study. NHDOT has approved the new project estimate. Public Works was recently informed that NHDOT wants 5 feet of separation between the back of the curb and the closest edge of the sidewalk/multiuse trail. The engineers are working on a proposal to update the plans.

Communication Plan: This project is currently scheduled for 2028 NHDOT funding. Comments from the meeting will be added to the City's project website once the consultant completes them.

Previous: DPW and NHDOT have approved HEB's Engineering Study. NHDOT has approved the new project estimate.

## **OPECHEE LOOP**

Current: The project amendment has been submitted from DPW to NBRC. NBRC is currently working through the NEPA process. The project is compliant and is moving forward. The City Engineer is following up with NBRC on the status of the NEPA process.

This NBRC project must occur in late summer/early fall 2024. This project cannot go any later than that as the City will lose our grant money on the project

Previous: The project amendment has been submitted from DPW to NBRC. NBRC is currently working through the NEPA process. The project is compliant and is moving forward.

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.

## **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's Program Administrator is still projecting a 15% increase in their operations and maintenance budget for each year of the next biennium budget. They do not expect to have guidance from DAS to provide a better estimate of the budget increase until late July or early August. The Administrator expects a significant increase in the cost of insurance, benefits and pay. One of WRBP's force mains in Gilford developed a leak. This area has had several leaks in the past. The WRBP is working with a contractor on an option to line the sewer. Based on the estimated cost, WRBP anticipates using Replacement Program funds for this

project. Fifty percent of the cost of repairing this force main will be funded by all members based on the member's share of the replacement fund. The other 50% is the responsibility of Gilford.

The last of the three rate allocation adjustments took effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The WRBP has the information necessary to complete the calculations necessary for the next rate allocation adjustment.

Previous: EPA's new permit for operation of the region's wastewater treatment collection system goes into effect on July 1, 2024. The permit includes a new requirement to develop a climate adaptation plan. The permit also changes the requirements for private wastewater collections systems. The changes eliminate the requirement for private collection systems to submit annual reports to the EPA. However EPA's responses also indicates that any sanitary sewer overflow from a private system into a catch basin or water of the U.S. is subject to enforcement action by EPA or NH DES.

The WRBP's administrator still anticipates providing its member communities with a preliminary budget in late August.

### **SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM**

Current: The easements necessary to connect the proposed White Oaks Road sewer main to the Weirs Blvd sewer main are in final edit before sharing with stakeholders. DPW has just received and is reviewing the preliminary engineering design drawings for the project.

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

Previous: The SSF is awaiting easement documents and agreement documents from the City Attorney to connect to an existing private sewer to allow for the expansion of City sewer along the middle corridor of White Oaks Rd. SSF is awaiting construction design documents of the City sewer project.

### **WEIRS BEACH RESTORATION**

Current: Laconia Parks & Recreation and the Planning Department met on site to discuss potential opportunities to get this project completed. There is significant runoff from ground water; that is our most serious offender of sand being removed from the beach area. Until that is solved, we will not see any real changes at the beach. A member of the Weirs TIF District Advisory Board is reaching out to DES as well as the Parks & Rec Director. Hopefully they will reach back out soon to discuss this project.

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: Top sand has been moved from the channel side of the beach to the bath house side. There doesn't appear to be a big change until you walk off the concrete into the sand from the bath house and it is no longer a foot drop. The Parks Department has filled all of that in and plan to do more.

**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 City Manager will provide an update at the July 22, 2024 City Council meeting.

Previous: No update.