



## LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – SEPTEMBER, 2024

### **LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS**

Current: The surface coat of asphalt has been placed on Old North Main Street that was scheduled for the shim/overlay. The contractor on September 19 & 20th is scheduled to pave the driveway connections to match the new surface's elevation. The wetland permit for the reconstruction of the northern section of Old North Main has been submitted to NH Department of Environmental Services.

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 both Appleton St and Old North Main St continues. Both projects require NHDES wetlands or shoreland permits. The Appleton Street project also requires a permit from NHDOT rail to replace the existing drainage pipe under the tracks. Based on the timeline for the required permits, it is likely that both projects will be completed in the spring of 2025. Appleton St's new drainage pipe under the railroad tracks must be installed when the track is inactive over the winter. Therefore, the Appleton St project will begin construction of some of the new drainage features late this fall. The Old Prescott Hill Road reconstruction project is complete, however additional roadside ditch work and placing additional loam/seeds on the shoulders will be completed in the coming weeks.

### **ACADEMY STREET BRIDGE**

Current: The bridge was paved on 9/10. Roadside grading, loam and seeding is ongoing. The bridge rail is scheduled to be installed on 9/25. The project's "final completion" date is 9/30.

Communication Plan: Alternating one-way traffic controlled by flaggers will be used as needed to complete the project.

Previous: The structure for the bridge and the new water main under the bridge has been installed. The contractor is working on installing the new drainage pipes in the project limits. The project schedule is tight as they lost a few workdays due to the weather. The contractor intends to complete the project on time. The bridge will be open for vehicular traffic by August 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE**

Current: DPW is awaiting HEB's amended analysis of the Engineering Study Phase.

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 has approved the change in the scope of work of the Engineering Study. HEB will now consider the impacts of the northerly railroad crossing on the bridge replacement project and the project on the crossing.

### **MILL STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

Current: Public Works has received the grant agreement from HUD. DPW and HEB are developing the scope and fee for the Engineering Study phase of this project. Once the study phase has been completed, the scope and fee for the preliminary engineering phase will be finalized.

Communication Plan: DPW is managing this project using NHDOT's locally managed project process. Therefore, the study phase will include a public information meeting to seek feedback on the project. Once the study phase is complete, Public Works will schedule another public information meeting to present the proposed alternatives of the project to the public.

Previous: DPW regularly contacts HUD to determine when we will receive guidance so that we can begin the design of the project. Public Works to date has not received any program instructions.

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

Current: Hoyle Tanner continues to work on the scope and fee for the Preliminary Engineering phase of the project. The project requires easements and they are looking for a consultant to assist with obtaining the easements. Once they have a subconsultant they will finish the scope and fee.

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 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.

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

Current: NHDOT has approved DPW/HEB's amended IGE for determining if it is possible to obtain more separation between the sidewalk/trail and the road. The study will be complete by the end of September.

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 HEB completed the independent government estimate (IGE) for the additional scope and fee for determining if it is possible to obtain more separation between trail/path users and the roadway.

### **OPECHEE LOOP**

Current: NBRC has indicated that DPW needs to submit an extension request for our Notice to Proceed. The NEPA review is the last item that needs to be completed by NBRC and NBRC's contractor is taking longer than anticipated. The project will go out to bid this winter for Spring 2025 construction.

Previous: NBRC has confirmed that they have all of the documentation required to issue a Notice to Proceed. DPW is waiting on the Notice to Proceed from NBRC.

### **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: WRBP is scheduled to present their budget submission to the NH DES at the September 19<sup>th</sup> WRBP Advisory Board meeting.

Previous: NHDES has not received guidance from DAS on personnel costs for completing the upcoming biennium budget (FY26 & FY26). The Program Administrator is still anticipating a 10 to 15% increase in the program's operations and maintenance budget. Once every 5 years the replacement value of the program's infrastructure is updated. Due to the increase in the cost of construction over the last 5 years, the Administrator is anticipating a significant increase in the replacement funds annual fee as part of this year's update. The program's budget is supposed to be completed prior to the September 19<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board meeting.

### **SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM**

Current: DPW has submitted a sewer extension application to NHDES for the addition of approximately one mile of gravity sewer along White Oaks Rd. DPW is in the process of obtaining easements for that part of the project where the sewer main is on private property.

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

Previous: The White Oaks Road project MOU will be shared by the end of August with all project stakeholders. DPW has been working with the engineer of record (Brown Engineering) and our contractor (Busby) to finalize the sewer extension design. A subcontractor will be probing the project corridor for ledge by the end of August to finalize scope/fee.

### **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: DES has been contacted again using a different contact. We are awaiting a response. This project will need to be combined with a drainage study and construction to keep the current ground water from washing out the beach before any other renovations are done. It is thought that this is the largest loss of sand by far.

### **LACONIA MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

### **NATIVE AMERICAN SCULPTURE**

Current: Things are starting to happen with this project. P&R and DPW are meeting with contractors to remove the current pedestal. They will remove some of the fence to get a straight shot to the statue. They will be protecting the track with 2 sheets of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood over the track when the need arises to access the area. There will be 3 contractors. 1 to remove the pedestal, 1 to install the new pedestal and the last to assemble the statue. The hope is to have this done in a month. A celebration will occur once complete.

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 team of engineers, construction workers and painters have been meeting when time allows them. Paintable caulking is how the pieces will go together and is being tested with the paint. The footing engineer is working on specs for the concrete work. They will be removing the old footing soon from the site.

### **LACONIA STATE SCHOOL UPDATE**

Current: The City Manager will provide an update at the September 23, 2024 City Council meeting.