



LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – OCTOBER, 2024

LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS

Current: Annual road program projects are complete for this construction season. There are a few outstanding punch list items that will be corrected in the coming weeks. These items are minor, e.g. settlement around a sewer manhole, etc.

The Appleton Street reconstruction project is moving forward. Permits are at NHDOT and NHDES. Public Works anticipates that they will be approved in time to close the railroad crossing on 11/4. The contractor will remove the crossing's rails and ties to replace the drainage pipe and extend the water main. The crossing will be closed for approximately a week. All work is within or close to the 60' railroad right of way. This fall work is limited to the railroad right of way. In the spring of 2025, the reconstruction of Appleton Street will occur.

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 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.

ACADEMY STREET BRIDGE

Current: The project reached "final completion" on 9/30. The Contractor has not completed the punch list items. The bridge guard rail on the west side of the bridge is not yet complete. Liberty Utilities is scheduled to relocate their gas main on October 22nd so that the guard rail can be completed.

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

Previous: 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.

CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE

Current: DPW and HEB Engineers have completed their Independent Government Estimate (IGE) for the new scope/fee relating to the study of the Centenary Ave railroad crossing to the north of the bridge.

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 amended analysis of the Engineering Study Phase.

MILL STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Current: DPW is waiting on the scope and fee from HEB Engineers for the Engineering Study Phase of the project.

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: 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.

HILLIARD ROAD CULVERT CROSSING

Current: FEMA has approved a hazard mitigation grant to replace the existing crossing over Pickerel Cove with a bridge. Public Works has begun the process to obtain a consultant to design the replacement.

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: None

WEIRS BLVD / US ROUTE 3 BRIDGE

Current: There is no update at this time.

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 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.

ELM STREET TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROJECT

Current: DPW is waiting on HEB to complete the Engineering Study Report on obtaining more separation between the road and the sidewalk.

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: 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.

OPECHEE LOOP

Current: The Northern Border Regional Commission's (NBRC) staff extended the deadline for the Notice to Proceed. Public Works is working on ensuring that the Commission issues the notice to proceed this winter to advertise the bid for the project for construction in the spring of 2025.

Previous: 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.

LACONIA DOWNTOWN TIF DISTRICT

Current: The Downtown TIF District Advisory Board is working on developing a downtown lighting plan.

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 budget included a 16% increase in the Program's operations and maintenance and administration budget. The replacement fund budget for FY2026 is still under development. FY2025 is a re-evaluation year, and the Program is in the process of determining the current replacement value of the infrastructure. The Program's manager is anticipating a large increase in the value of the infrastructure which will result in a large increase in member communities' payments to the fund.

Previous: WRBP is scheduled to present their budget submission to the NH DES at the September 19th WRBP Advisory Board meeting.

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Current: DPW has received the sewer extension permit from NHDES and is working on obtaining the necessary easements to begin construction on the White Oaks Sewer Extension Project this fall.

Locust Ave's sewer main is in very poor condition. The sewer main cannot be lined. It will be replaced this fall.

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

Previous: 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.

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: The Planning Board is recruiting members to the Master Plan Steering Committee.

Previous: No update.

NATIVE AMERICAN SCULPTURE

Current: This project is now complete. There will be an unveiling of the statue held on Saturday, October 26th at 4:30 pm.

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: 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 ¾" 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.

LACONIA STATE SCHOOL UPDATE

Current: The City Manager will provide an update at the October 28, 2024 City Council meeting.