BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENT
CONFERENCE REPORT

SUBJECT: Monthly SHPO-FHWA-ACOE-NHDOT Cultural Resources Meeting
DATE OF CONFERENCES: October 23, 2015
LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: John O. Morton Building

ATTENDED BY:

NHDOT
Joe Adams
Sheila Charles
Ron Crickard
Jill Edelmann
Robert Landry
Marc Laurin

NHDHR
Laura Black
Edna Feighner

FHWA
Jamie Sikora

VTRANS
(via teleconference)
Judith Ehrlich
Dan Landry
Kyle Obenauer
Jeannine Russell
Andrea Wright

VDHP
(via teleconference)
Scott Dillon
Jess Robinson

HTA
Matthew Low
Ed Weingartner

IAC
Ellen Marlatt
Jake Tumelaire

PROJECTS/PRESENTATIONS REVIEWED THIS MONTH:
(minutes on subsequent pages)

Lancaster-Guildhall 16155A *1*

(When viewing these minutes online, click on a project to zoom to the minutes for that project)

Lancaster-Guildhall 16155A
Continued consultation and update on project status. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and coordinate the Section 106 process including the Phase II Archaeology Investigation End of Field (EOF) Report preliminary findings and recommendations prepared by Independent Archaeological Consulting, LLC (IAC) and mitigation for the loss of the existing Rogers Rangers' Bridge.

Archaeology

Jen Russell explained the VTrans comments regarding the EOF Report and results of internal Agency discussions. VTrans will require additional Phase II investigation work to be completed to further study the Vermont Area of Potential Effect based on the results of the initial Phase II investigation work performed by IAC. J. Russell indicated Phase III archaeology work will also likely be required since the site is considered to be significant. VTrans will co-draft a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with NHDOT indicating stipulations for the additional work to be performed and Section 106 requirements. B. Landry indicated VTrans concurrence with performing the additional field work after the development of the MOA to allow purchase of the property. Performing the work after property purchase is beneficial to avoid further disruption to current owners farming operations.

After further discussion of the EOF Report and VTrans comments and expectations, it was agreed that no revisions to the report were required. Addressing VTrans comments and report revisions

will be incorporated into the final Phase II Archaeology Report. The Phase II report needs to contain all work performed by IAC to date. The draft Phase II Report will be submitted in February and the final report in late April/early May. This schedule includes a one month Agency draft report review period. J. Russell indicated the final Phase II report could be provided to VTrans in sections to expedite the review process. J. Russell indicated that VTrans will utilize one of their own on-call archaeological consultants to complete future archaeological investigations for this project.

Above Ground Mitigation

Mitigation for the loss of the bridge will not be tied to the Vilas Bridge, as once proposed, since it is not feasible. VTrans has mitigation and Programmatic Agreement (PA) standards which must be met and they would like to see documentation as part of the loss mitigation. VTrans indicated state level documentation is acceptable under the PA. HABS/HAER level documentation is not required. NHDOT is considering documentation as well. J. Edelmann noted that New Hampshire state level documentation is fairly extensive and will compare to VT standards. Other potential mitigation options including the following were discussed:

- Interpretive signage
- Cleaning up existing bridge signage
- Mitigation banking

Further discussion regarding mitigation banking ensued. VTrans indicated they would like to better understand how mitigation banking works before agreeing it is a viable mitigation option. Additionally, VDHP, FHWA and ACHP will need to approve banking as a mitigation option. J. Edelmann explained banking funds could be used for such things as upgrades to archaeology laboratories and digitizing documents for the NHDHR archives. Discussion also included that funding could be made project specific rather than tied to mitigation banking. This option might be better for meeting project schedules.

Memorandum of Effect

The Memorandum of Effect (MOE) for the project has not been signed and must be completed in order to complete the NEPA document and process. J. Russell noted that VTrans typically waits until resource mitigation has been chosen, but agreed to signing the MOE to allow NEPA completion in order to begin the VT ROW purchasing process. J. Edelmann will schedule a follow up meeting to discuss mitigation options.

Submitted by: Sheila Charles and Jill Edelmann, Cultural Resources

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New Hampshire Department of Transportation
Cultural Resources Agency Coordination Meeting

OK

Date ~~November 12, 2015~~ October 23

Please initial next to your name. Guests: Please use reverse side to sign in.

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Please fill in all of the requested information. November 12, 2015

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TELECONFERENCE

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✓ Judith Ehrlich VTrans

✓ Dan Landry

✓ Kyle Oberhaker

✓ Andrea Wright

✓ Jess Robins

✓ Scott Dylan