

New Ipswich 14465

NH 123 / NH 124 Bridge Over Souhegan River

"Highbridge"

Project Advisory Committee

Meeting #4

October 14, 2009



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Minutes of 9/2/09 meeting
- Adopt Vision Statement
- Discuss Screening Criteria
- Review Design Alternatives
- Next Steps

Introductions

- Design Team
- Project Advisory Committee

CSS Steps

Public Hearing

Preferred Alternative

Screen Alternatives

Brainstorm Alternatives

Screening Criteria

Vision Statement

Problem Statement

Placemaking Workshop

← We are here

9/2/09 meeting notes

Any corrections or changes?

Problem Statement

The NH Route 123/124 (Turnpike Road) bridge, (“Highbridge”), built in 1957 over the Souhegan River in the Town of New Ipswich, is in poor condition and is on the State’s Redlist. An historic stone arch bridge structure, built circa 1820 which supports Highbridge, is deteriorating and needs attention to ensure the long-term stability of the structures. The roadway within the project area, between the intersections of NH 123/124 with Highbridge Road and River Road is narrow, lacking shoulders and adequate width for turning vehicles. The existing bridge has a sidewalk that may not be easily accessible to pedestrian/school traffic crossing the bridge. The stone arch bridge, although it is a valuable historic resource, is inaccessible and largely invisible to motorists and pedestrians. The alignment of the existing roadway bridge is skewed to the alignment of the approaches causing vehicles to strike the projecting corner of the bridge curbing. Excessive width of River Road at its intersection with Turnpike Road results in uncertain turning paths and vehicle conflict. The profile of Turnpike Road and overgrown vegetation along the roadside obstruct the sight line to the left from Highbridge Road. Viable detours are unavailable to route traffic around the bridge area for both planned and unplanned closures of the bridge. Connectivity is vital to New Ipswich residents, area businesses, commuters, schools, and emergency response.

Draft Vision Statement

NH Route 123/124 is a vital road providing access *for local and regional traffic within and through New Ipswich. Highbridge crosses the Souhegan River at the junction of NH Routes 123 and 124.* The corridor in the vicinity of the bridge will be enhanced by replacing the upper steel bridge, preserving the historic lower stone arch, and redesigning the approaches to the bridge. In addition to upgrading *roadway safety*, the new bridge and its approaches will provide opportunities to *optimize* the roadway width, allow for safe bicycle and pedestrian travel, and improve drainage. The project will maintain the historic, cultural, and natural resources by utilizing least impacting practical alternatives to protect the environment and aesthetic value in and around the Highbridge area. The bridge will be aesthetically pleasing, environmentally sensitive, and will *preserve* the historic character of New Hampshire's earliest textile mills.

Alternative Screening Criteria

- Evaluate whether alternative is effective in addressing problems and visions identified
- Determine if concept should be included in the range of reasonable alternatives

Screening Criteria (cont.)

Criteria Categories

- Access
- Aesthetics
- Natural Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Economic Viability
- Implementation / Constructibility
- Mobility
- Safety
- Business Impacts

Design Alternatives

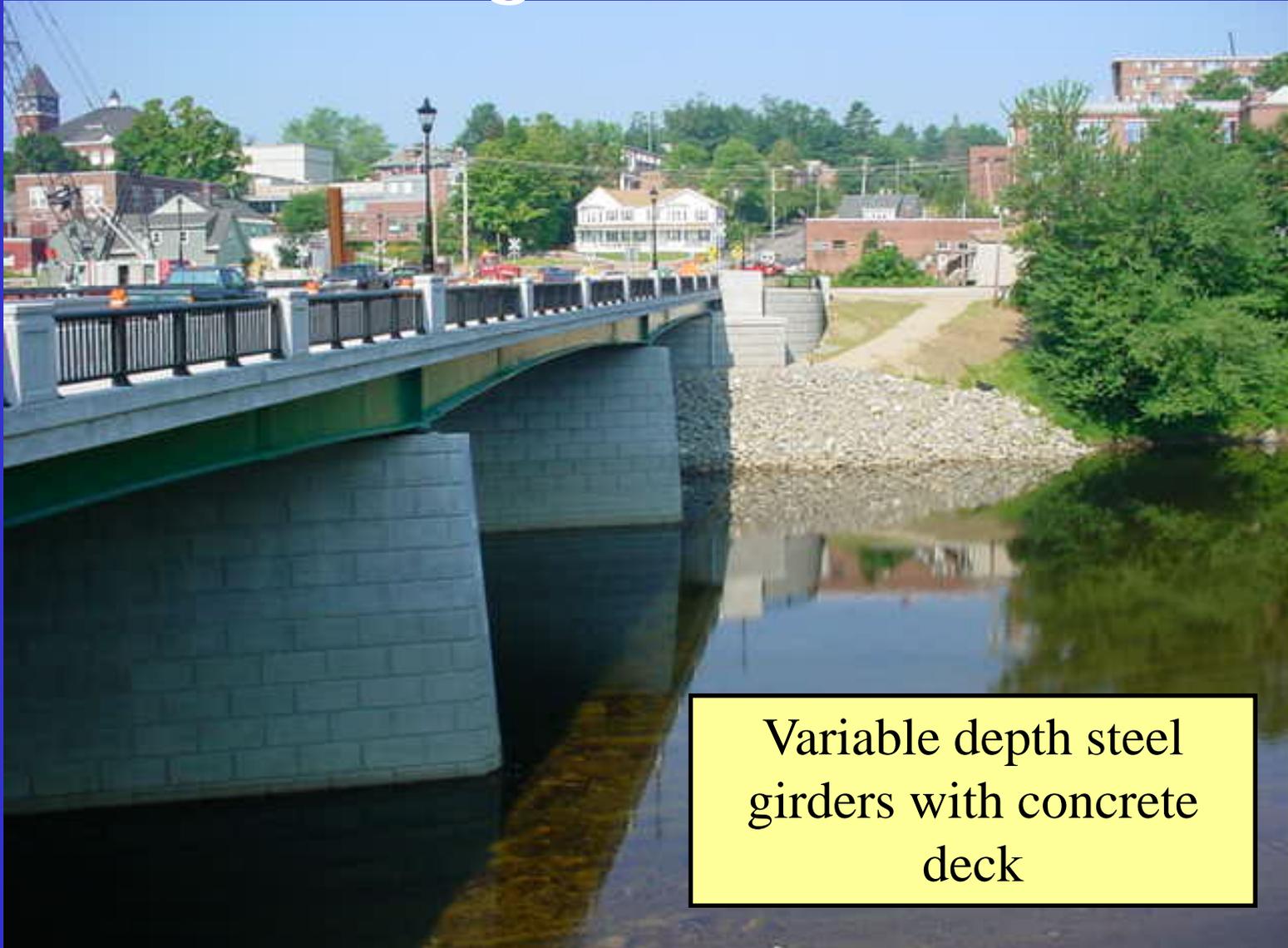
New construction

1. Bridge and roadway alternatives
2. Review of sample bridge features

Maintenance of traffic

1. Regional detours
2. Mill Street detour
3. Upstream detour

Bridge features



Variable depth steel
girders with concrete
deck

Bridge features



Special guardrail and
ornamental lighting

Bridge features



Precast concrete girders
with concrete deck

Bridge features



Special sidewalk, rail,
and lighting

Bridge features



Special sidewalk, rail,
and lighting

Next Steps

- Next meeting: 12/2/2009?
- Continue to review and evaluate alternatives