

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BUREAU OF BRIDGE DESIGN**

CONFERENCE REPORT

PROJECT: New Ipswich, 14465
X-A000(403)
NH 123 / NH 124 bridge over Souhegan River

DATE OF CONFERENCE: May 20, 2009

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: New Ipswich Town Office

ATTENDED BY:

Project Lead Team

Eric Smith – Southwest Regional Planning Commission
Donald Lyford – NHDOT Project Manager (PAC Member)
Michael Dugas – NHDOT Highway Design Preliminary Design Chief
David Scott – NHDOT Bridge Design In-House Design Chief
Jason Tremblay – NHDOT Bridge Design Senior Project Engineer
Matt Urban – NHDOT Environmental Manager (PAC Member)

Project Advisory Committee

Bob Boynton – New Ipswich Conservation Commission
David Leel – New Ipswich Fire Chief
Ed Rogers – New Ipswich Resident
Garrett Chamberlain – New Ipswich Police Chief
Gary Somero – School Representative
George Lawrence – New Ipswich Selectman
Marie Knowlton – New Ipswich Town Administrator
Peter Goewey – New Ipswich Road Agent
Woody Houston – Warwick Mills
Susan Williams – New Ipswich Historical Society

Others

Jim Coffey – New Ipswich Selectman
Bentti Hoiska – New Ipswich Selectman
Tim Carpenter – New Ipswich Police

SUBJECT: Project Advisory Committee Meeting #1

NOTES ON CONFERENCE

Following introductions, Eric gave an overview of the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process, defining various aspects of the process and the steps involved with it.

Mike Dugas gave a brief presentation of the project need from NHDOT's perspective. He explained that the initial project limits can be defined as Turnpike Road (NH 123 & 124) extending from River Road to Highbridge Road (NH 123). At the commencement of the project the Department sees the overall scope of the work as the replacement of the 1950s era bridge that carries the roadway, and the preservation of the 1800s era stone arch. He noted that the principal concerns the Department has at the outset of the project include the long-term stability of both the stone arch bridge and the bridge carrying the roadway, the need to maintain traffic during construction, and the need to minimize impacts to natural and cultural resources.

Eric distributed copies of the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) which is also available on the project webpage: <http://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/newipswich14465/index.htm>. Eric discussed the various sections of the PIP but also mentioned that the PIP can be updated by the group as necessary and is not a complete document until the end of the project. Jim Coffey recommended that the project advertise via Jomarc's direct mail advertising rather than through the Keene Sentinel; all agreed. Jim also asked if the NHDOT website can be linked from the Town of New Ipswich's website. This will be done.

Mike discussed the project schedule. Preliminary design will extend through 2009, culminating in a public hearing in 2010. Final design will then proceed into 2011 with construction anticipated to begin in 2012.

Eric discussed what a good problem statement should look like and showed examples from Winchester, Dublin and Meredith. One way to start creating a problem statement is to list problems that stakeholders have observed within the project area. Problems at this site were discussed and listed. (The list is included at the conclusion of this conference report. This list also includes observations and items to be considered in the solution.) The project lead team will use this list to develop a draft problem statement for review at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on July 15, 2009 at 11:15 PM at the New Ipswich Town Offices.

Submitted by:

Jason A. Tremblay, P.E.

JT/jt

NOTED BY: D. Lyford, E. Smith, M. Dugas, D. Scott, M. Urban

cc: D. Lyford

M. Dugas

D. Scott

J. Tremblay

M. Urban

Bill Cass, Director of Project Development

D. Graham - District 4

E Smith – SWRPC

PAC Members

Preserve the stone arch built in 1820
Need to replace the upper bridge
Sense of Congestion (and visibility)
Lack of shoulders
Excessive width of River Road apron
Threat to neighborhood
Roadway alignment (misalignment)
Potential local disruption (vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle)
Volume of school traffic
Potential for new elementary school to significantly affect traffic across the bridge
Vegetation (and visibility) at Highbridge Road intersection
Vehicles turning LT onto River Road are at mercy of cars behind them, which have no shoulder
Former 10 Year Plan project to Rte 124 Highbridge east (Sununu administration)
Bridge Design must consider bigger picture
Potential solutions will speed up traffic
New bridge may need a sidewalk on the side of the new school
Currently no visual access to the bridge (lack of historical appreciation)
Design should maintain integrity of stone arch bridge
Preserve the surrounding historical structures (mill and Old School House #12)
Preservation of the penstock [owned by different entity (Greenwood of Greenville) than the mill]
Preservation of mill pond for fire protection at the mill
Souhegan River is a "Designated River"
Route is important to police and fire protection and rescue (EMS)
Other structure required for a temporary detour
Potential solutions may require mutual agreements with other towns
Potential to disruption to Warwick Mills and Vanguard (scaffolding manufacturer)
Potential to need to convince the public that the replacement is necessary

MEETING SIGN-UP SHEET

PROJECT New Ipswich
 LOCATION NH Rt 123 & 124 over Seabegam River
 PROJECT NO. X-A000(403) 14465
 Federal State

Name	Agency	Comments
David Scott	NHDOT - Br Des	dscott@dot.state.nh.us
Eric Smith	SWRPC	esmith@swrpc.org
MARIE KNOWITON	NEW IPSWICH TA	gchamberlun@n.pd.net
Garret Chamberlun	New Ipswich Police	jim@coffey.net
Jim Coffey	Selectman	n.pd@comcast.net
DAVID LEE	FIRE CHIEF	Higway Dept @ Town of New Ipswich .org
Peter Goewey	ROAD AGENT	
GEORGE LAWRENCE	SELECTMAN	
Bentti O. Hoiska	Selectman	
MIKE DUGAS	NHDOT - HWY DESIGN	mdugas@dot.state.nh.us
SUSAN WILLIAMS	New Ipswich Historical Soc.	waterloom815@gmail.com
Bob Boynton	Con Con	
Matt Urban	NHDOT - Bur. Env.	murban@dot.state.nh.us
Ed Rogers	interested citizen	erogers@res37.com
GARY SOMERNO	MASCENIK school Dist	G.Somerno@Mascenik.org
Woody Houston	WARWICK MILLS	W.houston@WarwickMills.com
Tim Carpenter	New Ipswich Police	tcarpenter@n.pd.net
Don Lyford	NHDOT Project Manager	dlyford@dot.state.nh.us
Jason Tremblay	NHDOT - Bridge Design	jtremblay@dot.state.nh.us

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Date 5/20/09