

**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: July 15, 2009

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: New Ipswich Town Office

ATTENDED BY:

Project Lead Team

Eric Smith – Southwest Regional Planning Commission
Michael Dugas – NHDOT Highway Design Preliminary Design Chief
David Scott – NHDOT Bridge Design In-House Design Chief

Project Advisory Committee

David Leel – New Ipswich Fire Chief
Ed Rogers – New Ipswich Resident
Gary Somero – Mascenic Regional School District
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
Donald Lyford – NHDOT Project Manager
Matt Urban – NHDOT Environmental Manager

Others

Jim Coffey – New Ipswich Selectman
Bentti Hoiska – New Ipswich Selectman
Earl Somero - Town Moderator

SUBJECT: Project Advisory Committee Meeting #2

NOTES ON CONFERENCE

Following introductions, Eric reviewed the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process, and the status of the project. Following approval of the meeting notes, Eric distributed and discussed edits to the Public Involvement Plan (PIP). He noted that the secondary means of publishing meeting notices has been changed to the Jomarc

Advertiser, as recommended by the PAC. Information will need to be provided to Jomarc by the 23rd of the month for inclusion in the next monthly publication. Don Lyford pointed out that the PAC currently has no DOT representative. He suggested that typically both he and Matt Urban would be considered members of the PAC rather than of the lead team. All agreed, and adopted the PIP as revised. Mike Dugas reminded the PAC that although the PIP has been adopted it is still subject to updates as the project progresses. The adopted PIP with the latest edits will be posted to the project web page.

Eric reviewed the draft problem statement that has been developed based on the input gathered at the prior PAC meeting. He asked for clarification regarding whether the name "Highbridge" refers to the existing roadway bridge, the stone arch bridge, or the combined structure. Most PAC members felt that the term originally applied only to the stone arch structure, but now could describe the combination of the 1820s stone bridge and 1950s girder bridge. The wording of the problem statement will be refined to more clearly reflect this definition. The PAC made additional suggestions for refinements to the problem statement. The revised statement will be emailed to PAC members for their concurrence and brought up for adoption at the next PAC meeting.

Eric distributed and reviewed sample vision statements from projects in Winchester, Dublin, and Meredith. Bentti Hoiska felt that the Winchester example, with some adjustments to reflect the particulars of the Highbridge area, could form the basis for the vision statement for this project; all agreed. Several suggestions for elements of the vision statement included the following:

- road is important link between Monadnock region and Massachusetts
- being able to view the bridge would be desirable, but river access for recreation is not appropriate in this location
- should reference the historic character of the area

Matt Urban suggested a sentence summarizing the need to minimize impacts on the natural and cultural resources in the area. These elements will be compiled and reviewed further at the next PAC meeting.

Mike Dugas explained that once the vision statement has been adopted, screening criteria will be compiled that would then be used to measure how well each design alternative addresses the problems and visions. He distributed sample criteria from the Meredith and Pelham projects.

The next Project Advisory Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at 11:15 AM at the New Ipswich Town Offices. All agreed that Eric Smith should invite Bob Greenwood, owner of the penstock along the Souhegan River, to participate as a stakeholder in the project.

Submitted by:

Michael J. Dugas, P.E.

Chief of Preliminary Design

MJD/mjd

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