

Town of Bartlett, New Hampshire

Addendum to 8-Step Checklist

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) intent to provide funding to the Town of Bartlett to assist in the Hazard Mitigation Proposal of the River Street Bridge over the Saco River, under FEMA Disaster DR-4026-NH (Tropical Storm Irene). Funds will be provided in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990, FEMA is required to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. Federal actions must also be reviewed for opportunities to relocate facilities and evaluated for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations.

The Town of Bartlett, Carroll County, New Hampshire proposes to add a high-flows box culvert and harden the bridge abutments and the center pier as a Hazard Mitigation Proposal to permanently repair damages from the event and reduce the probability of damages to the facility from future events. The facility is located at GPS Coordinates: 44.08368, -71.28531.

This project involves construction in a previously developed area that is within a mapped area (Zone AE) determined to have a 1.0% annual chance of flooding (100-yr flood, in the Special Flood Hazard Area) as indicated by FIRM #33003C0158D dated March 19, 2013. Because the facility is dependent upon the floodplain, no practicable alternatives to locating the facility outside the floodplain exist. This facility has been damaged multiple times by flood waters.

The Proposed Action is to install a 55' x 20' x 10' high-flows box culvert on the north bank bridge approach to allow an additional 9,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) of flow to pass under the bridge to reduce the probability of future damage during major storm events. The three options considered were 1) Take no action; 2) Raise the bridge 2 feet, hence expanding the bridge opening; and 3) Construct a 55' x 20' x 10' high-flows box culvert beneath the north bank bridge approach to allow an additional 9,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) of flood water to pass this narrow constriction in the river channel where the bridge is located. Option 1 was not selected because the bridge is necessary for the public to access the communities on the north side of the river and the bridge has a history of repetitive damages from similar high water events. Option 2 was not selected during the engineering phase because the cost would be prohibitive and redesigning the approaches would affect homeowners whose driveways were in proximity to the bridge. The preferred option, Option 3 is anticipated to have positive social and economic impacts on the local community by reducing the probability of damages to the facility from future events, as well as reducing the probability of the channel overflowing its south bank and into a residential area. Plans are available from: HEB Engineers, Inc., PO Box 440 North Conway, NH 03860; telephone (603) 356-6936.

Funding for the project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, state and local floodplain standards, permit requirements, building codes and project conditions.

Interested persons may submit comments or obtain more detailed information about the action by contacting:

Thomas Perry, Manager Processing Center
FEMA, Region 1
63 Old Marlborough Road
Maynard, MA 01754
Phone: 202-320-7583

David Robbins, Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA, Region I
99 High Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
Phone: (617) 832-4755

All comments should be submitted to the above named official(s) within ten (10) days of the publication of this Public Notice.