

**Location:**

Virtual

**Time:**

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

**Purpose of Meeting:** Fourth Quarter Meeting 2020

**Invitees:**

- ✓ Loretta Girard Doughty, NHDOT
- ✓ Angela Hubbard, NHDOT (Co-Chair)
- ✓ Joe Adams, NHDOT
- ✓ David Scott, NHDOT
- Tony Weatherbee, NHDOT
- ✓ Michael Mozer, NHDOT
- ✓ Robert Juliano, NHDOT
- ✓ Philip Brogan, NHDOT
- ✓ Dan O'Connor, Collins (note taker)
- ✓ Kim Smith, H&H
- ✓ Adam Stockin, WSP (Co-Chair)
- ✓ Tom Levins, GM2
- ✓ Jaime French, Fuss and O'Neil

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- **Department staff changes (promotions, new-hires, retirements, etc.)**
    - a. Staffing discussion
      - Hiring freeze has been lifted for a few priority positions. Total of 270 current vacant positions, 70 (level 1 priority) positions to be posted in the near future.
  - **Summary of In-House Design Section staff meetings**
    - a. October 2020
      - Transportation Research Board is a free virtual event this year.
      - In Department training for Bentley Open Roads and Connect CADD to be scheduled.
      - The Department has Teams program but the chat feature is for internal use only. There is a call in number for meetings.
      - There will be an upcoming Tri-State Meeting with ME, NH and VT.
        - Continuation of meetings from the past.
      - A Vermont Interstate Master Agreement has been approved by G&C for paving and minor bridge maintenance work that crosses the Connecticut River. Still need stand-alone agreement for major projects. A follow-up agreement for inspection is in development.
  - **NHDOT Information for Consultants**
    - a. NHDOT Bridge Manual Update
      - Chapter 11, Section 11.8 & 11.4 were revised again.
        - Waiting for internal review.
        - Cathodic Protection added with guidance on how to quantify the anodes and where to use them.
        - Guidance on when to use black and epoxy coated reinforcing.
      - Completely rewrote the Bridge Rehabilitation Sample Notes.

- Waiting for internal review.
- Temporary Concrete Barrier memorandum was posted on-line 11/5/20.
  - The memorandum states that the temporary portable concrete barrier plans do not need to be included in the contract plans. They will be on-line for the Contractor's use.
- Structural Steel Corrosion Protection Memorandum.
  - Waiting for internal review.
- New 403 item numbers.
  - Some item descriptions have been changed again and will be discussed at Spec Committee meeting.
  - Once approved, it will be sent out to Designers.
- b. Expansion Joint Detailing
  - Working with ARC Fabrication for a finger plate expansion joint that is using 1" plates welded together instead of angles due to the complex geometry.
  - ARC has concerns with the expansion joint warping with all the welding. Department is working with ARC for more design guidance.
  - We will be coming up with tolerances and more guidance after the fabrication of this Bethlehem joint.
  - Minor changes made in expansion joint - backing bar details for finger joints and sample plans have been updated and posted online
- c. Section 105 and Approval Stamps
  - Department is revising section 105 to address what items are for approval vs. documentation and a list has been provided for guidance. Requirements have also been added for documentation from Contractors. The revisions have been approved by the Specification Committee.
  - Stamp designs have been updated to provide consistent approval and documentation stamps. The new stamps have been approved by the Specification Committee and a memo will be provided once approved by FHWA.
- d. COVID 19 impacts (meetings, funding, other)
  - Department staff are still able to work remotely.
  - COVID leave was extended for staff with children.
  - Received relief from last bill passed (\$41M) which allows the Department to go ahead with existing work, however new projects are not permitted within the bill.
  - Received \$7M in support for commercial airports; waiting guidance from FHWA on how funds can be used.
  - Public meeting guideline booklet is in development

- **Technical Topics**

- a. Partial-depth precast panels

- Discussion of designing and showing partial depth-precast panels on all bridges
      - Current memorandum states partial depth panels are required over tier 1 and tier 2 roads. Department is in discussion whether or not to show panels for all bridges instead of showing 8" or 8.5" CIP deck for all bridges.
      - Moving towards showing partial depth panels, with details, on all bridges – will be updated in revised Ch 7 – Bridge Deck Section vs. another memorandum.
      - Discussion of neighboring States use of partial depth panels:
        - VT does not use them; however, this may be changing, currently use SIP forms, have used full depth panels.
        - ME – Not typically used.
        - MA – Not currently used. Primarily use metal SIP forms, open to full depth panels with closure pours.
        - Maine Turnpike - they are used.
        - WSP currently doing a project for FHWA on use of partial depth panels – draft report to be shared with Department.
      - Discussion on reuse vs. removal of studs for re-decking projects. No current requirement in manual to remove studs. Department's position is reuse is permitted if in good condition and they meet the design requirements. Angela will discuss with Contractors for their perspective.

- b. Cost Estimating Update

- Estimate Review Committee meets every 2 weeks and is working through the manual. First couple chapters have been submitted to the review committee.
    - Mike Mozer looking at historic data to assist in developing cost estimates.
    - Should be issuing guidance within a couple months.

- c. Bridge Rehabilitation checklist, site visit list, and contract plan sheet list

- Draft available for review.
      - Separate checklists developed for preservation and rehabilitation projects. Angela sending out checklists for review by committee.
      - Contract plan list developed for preservation and rehabilitation projects.
      - Project development list created for preservation and rehab projects. Still under review.

- d. Open Roads Implementation Update

- No indication of when implementation will be required. Currently used on a voluntary basis but will be required at some point.
    - Discussion: VT moving to Open Roads as of 1/1/21.

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- e. UHPC/PPC (Polyester Polymer Concrete) Overlays
    - PPC has been used on 1 project in NH to date. Dave Scott is part of EDC initiative and Loretta/David are charged with investigating the use of UHPC for the Department. Bridge committee will gather their collective experience with UHPC/PPC and report back at a subsequent committee meeting.
  - b. FRP Tub Girders (similar shape to NEXT Beams)
    - System developed by AIT Bridges in Brewer, ME. Current test project underway in ME with construction starting this summer. System replaces NEXT beams with FRP tub girders. Bridge plans to be distributed to committee for review.
  - f. ABC Technologies (SPMTs, UHPC, etc.)
    - Loretta is beginning to investigate use of ABC techniques for the Department with a goal of developing a decision matrix for its use.
    - Discussion: VT has completed approximately 100 ABC bridges since 2015 and utilizes a decision matrix. MA and CT similarly utilize decision matrices
    - VT, MA, and CT all utilize decision matrices for use of ABC technologies, bridge committee members to gather their collective experience and report back at a subsequent committee meeting.
  - g. Other
    - **ACEC-ME / MaineDOT meeting notes**
      - Adam is no longer on this committee
  - **Business Topics**
    - a. Update for online shared reviews
      - NHBUG started Nov. 2020
        1. NHBUG group consists of architects and engineers and meets regularly to discuss use of bluebeam, link to group:  
<https://www.bluebeam.com/communities/bluebeam-user-groups/new-hampshire/>
    - b. Opportunities to streamline project deliveries
      - Discussion: Department is using bluebeam more frequently. Has been used on some construction projects to manage the review process. Envision use becoming more common in future.
        1. Construction oversight is heading towards use of bluebeam for all construction submittals.
        2. Not currently used widely for project development. Ultimate goal would be to use it for all project phases. Bridge committee members support more widespread use and find the ability to have centralized comments with tracking ability to be very useful.
    - c. Bridge Maintenance inclusion on meetings
      - Suggestion to add bridge maintenance representative to the committee.

- Discussion: Would be useful for some agenda topics but not all. Alternatively share the agenda with maintenance staff ahead of committee meetings for comment and input.
- Angela will send an email to Bridge Maintenance with agenda/meeting minutes and invite Bridge Maintenance to meetings. They can review the agenda and decide if they would like to attend.

- **Potential NHDOT and Consultant bridge training opportunities**

- a. Bridge Inspection Courses
- b. New Wetland Rules/Permitting Plans
  - On the agenda for ACEC Tech Conference (April 12-16)
- c. ABC Design Course
  - FHWA will no longer be offering this specific training.
  - Opportunity to reach out to FHWA for support and specific training. WSP is consultant on FHWA contract and will investigate.
- d. NHI FHWA Bridge Preservation
- e. NHI Strut and Tie Training
  - Was scheduled for last year, not rescheduled yet due to COVID.
- f. Other conferences

- **Bridge Bureau workload and anticipated consultant support needs**

- a. Possible Action Projects
  - Nothing beyond what is shown on Department website
- b. Future funding/project issues

- **Subcommittee membership rotation / new members**

Adam Stockin, Tom Levins, David Scott, Tony Weatherbee	Sept. 2017 to Sept. 2021
Kim Smith, Dan O'Connor Bob Juliano, Mike Mozer	Sept. 2019 to Sept 2022
Chris Cucco, Jaime French, Philip Brogan	Sept. 2020 to Sept 2023

- **Upcoming meetings - scheduled Fridays from 10:00 to 11:30 AM**

- a. 2021 meeting dates (calendar invites will be sent out):

March 12, 2021

June 11, 2021

September, 10, 2021

December 10, 2021