

Andover, 20650 – March 21, 2022 Public Info

The evaluation of environmental and cultural resources impacts within the project limits is on-going. The resources and impacts of the chosen preferred alternative will be documented in an Environmental Study/Section 4(f) Evaluation, which will be posted on NHDOT's web site.

Environmental Resources that are present and are being evaluated in the vicinity of the project area include: Sucker Brook, Water Quality, Floodplains, Wetlands, Recreational Trail and the endangered Northern Long-eared Bat. Cultural Resources within the project are the historic Sucker Brook bridge, the Northern Railroad corridor, which includes the railroad bridge, and the abutting Koron property.

For Cultural Resources, the project will need to comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This Act requires the Department to identify and assess the project's impacts to cultural resources, which are buildings, historic districts, and structures, as well as archaeological sites, that are generally greater than 50 years old.

These regulations offer individuals or organizations with a demonstrated interest in the potential impacts to historic resources an opportunity to become more involved in an advisory role through meetings and commentary. They may become what are known as Consulting Parties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Presently, the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail, have requested and been identified as a consulting party.

The lead Federal Agency for this project is the Federal Highway Administration. Although the role of a consulting party is advisory in nature, FHWA must consider a consulting party's input carefully before making a final decision on how the project will affect historic resources.

Consultation recognizes the importance of local involvement in the decision making process. If you wish to become a Consulting Party, please contact me after the meeting for information on contacting FHWA or to obtain a pamphlet on the process.

An historical survey has been conducted during the development of this project. The Department will continue to coordinate with the Federal Highway Administration and the NH Department of Historical Resources regarding the impacts and mitigation to the historic resources located within the project limits.

Additionally, the Federal Highway Administration's Section 4(f) of the DOT Act regulations require the evaluation of impacts to recreational resources to determine whether alternatives which avoid or minimize impacts to these properties are reasonable or prudent.

(Contact Information:

*Mr. Jamison S. Sikora
NH Division Environmental Programs Manager
Federal Highway Administration
J.C. Cleveland Federal Building
53 Pleasant Street, Suite 2200
Concord, NH 03301
jamie.sikora@dot.gov)*