

Public Statement
Bedford 16156

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other state and federal regulations, the NHDOT must investigate the potential impacts that our projects will have on the surrounding natural, cultural, and social environment. Identifying key resources early in the project development process enables the Department to avoid or minimize impacts as design proceeds.

Part of our review involves historic resources. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Department is reviewing the project area to determine if there are historic resources within the area that would be impacted by the construction of this project. Historic properties can include buildings and structures fifty years or older as well as archaeological sites. In addition to age, it also must be determined if a structure is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Further study is underway to determine if additional historic resources exist in the project area. In complement to this review, we are asking that if anyone has concerns about historical or archaeological resources in or adjacent to the project area, they bring them to our attention tonight or contact us after this meeting.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act offers those that possess a direct interest in historical resources, including town officials and Historical Societies, an opportunity to become more involved in an advisory role during project development as “Consulting Parties.” Those interested would need to indicate so in writing to the Federal Highway Administration. Please see me after the meeting if you would like more information.

Regarding natural resources, wetland permits may be needed from the NH Department of Environmental Services, and the US Army Corps of Engineers. As the project proceeds, we will continue to coordinate with the appropriate agencies to avoid or minimize impacts.