

October 6, 2020

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
BUREAU OF HIGHWAY DESIGN**

**CONFERENCE REPORT**

**PROJECT:** Epping 29608  
NH Route 125 Capacity Improvements

**DATE OF CONFERENCE:** September 28, 2020

**LOCATION OF CONFERENCE:** Selectboard Meeting  
Epping Town Hall

**ATTENDED BY:** **Town Officials**  
Bob Jordan, Chairman  
Michael Yergeau, Selectman  
Cody Belanger, Selectman  
Joe Trombley, Selectman  
Greg Dodge, Town Administrator  
Joyce Blanchard, Board Secretary  
Chief Wallace (police)  
Chief DeAngelis (fire)

**Project Team**  
Wendy Johnson – NHDOT, Project Manager  
Dan Prehemo – NHDOT, Design Group Leader  
Tony Puntin – BETA Group, Inc., Engineering Design Consultant

**SUBJECT:** Public Officials Meeting

**NOTES ON CONFERENCE:**

W. Johnson thanked the Board for the time to present the project status. She indicated that this meeting is part of the public participation process of the project. She introduced the project team in attendance: Dan Prehemo (NHDOT) and Tony Puntin (BETA).

T Puntin presented the attached PowerPoint presentation to the Board. He provided a basic overview of the project location/limits, the goals and objectives, the scope of work, and the current project status. He noted that a Public Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held, and they have provided initial input as to their thoughts and concerns on the project locations. One of the main objectives of this meeting was to solicit input from the public officials as to their concerns and to comment on areas to be addressed with this project.

B. Jordan agreed with one of the concerns expressed by the PAC; an east-west connection or crossing of NH Route 125 at NH Route 27 should be investigated.

C. Belanger noted that he has heard from his constituents that they were not in favor of a roadway design that utilized a raised center median, similar to the recent upgrades in Plaistow. The inconvenience of needing to U-turn at intersections to access properties on the opposite side of the road was cited as a concern.

M. Yergeau asked about town infrastructure (water and sewer) and if any improvements would be included in the NH Route 125 project. W. Johnson indicated that NHDOT has been in contact with Jim Pouliot from the Town Water/Sewer Department. W. Johnson provided the two basic options for the Towns consideration. The Town may choose to undertake their infrastructure upgrades on their own (design, bidding, contractors, etc.) prior to or during the NHDOT NH Route 125 project. It was noted that there will be a moratorium on work within the corridor after the NHDOT project is complete. The Town also has the option of providing the necessary design to NHDOT and it will be incorporated into the NH Route 125 project and be built by the NHDOT contractor. The Town will be responsible for the infrastructure costs and some administrative costs. There are advantages and disadvantages to both options. The Town will need to decide as to which options will be utilized.

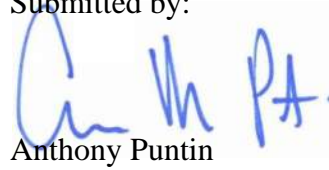
M. Yergeau and J. Trombley asked about the extent and reason for the potential Town infrastructure improvements. T. Puntin noted that BETA is in discussion with the Town to provide conceptual design on the proposed improvements, as a separate contract from the States 29608 project. He noted that the proposed improvements will provide redundancy in the water system by completing a “loop” by constructing a new water line north from NH Route 27 over the Lamprey River Bridge to the vicinity on Blue Bird Storage. He also noted that there are other smaller connections or loops that may be constructed. Relative to sewer upgrades, the Town will investigate the possibility of replacing or upgrading a force main from a pump station adjacent to the NH Route 101 WB off ramp to Fresh River Road.

M. Yergeau noted a recent water main break on Railroad Street as an example of some of the Towns older lines. He noted the Town will conduct an evaluation as to the potential cost difference between undertaking the infrastructure improvements on their own or including them in the NHDOT project. The objective is to protect the rate payers.

J. Trombley asked how long the Section 106 consulting party opportunity is available. W. Johnson noted that the official party consultation will extend through the Public Hearing and ends at the completion of the Environmental Documents. However, she noted that NHDOT will consider comments throughout the duration of the project.

J. Trombley asked about the overall project schedule. W. Johnson noted that the project design is currently scheduled to be completed in Fall of 2025 with construction to begin in the Spring of 2026 at the earliest.

Submitted by:



Anthony Puntin

## Attachments

### 1. Meeting Presentation

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