

# Hinsdale, NH – Brattleboro, VT Connecticut River Bridge Project NH Project #12210C; VT Project # BF A004 (152)

Project Advisory Committee Meeting #1  
February 1, 2017, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm  
Hinsdale Police Department  
10 Main Street  
Hinsdale, NH





# Agenda


1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Draft Public Involvement Plan**
3. **Overview of Project/Project Status**
4. **Next Steps**
5. **Next Meeting**
6. **Public Comment**
7. **Adjourn**



# Purpose of Public Involvement Plan


- Communicate the principles that will guide the project's public involvement process;
- Communicate information about the project team; and
- Describe the communication methods that will be implemented to inform the community.

Public Involvement Plan for  
Project #12210C; BF A004 (152)  
The Construction of a New Bridge Over  
the Connecticut River –  
Hinsdale, NH & Brattleboro, VT



New Hampshire Department of Transportation  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
Southwest Region Planning Commission  
Windham Regional Commission

Adoption Date:  
Revision Date(s):



# Stakeholders

- People who live, work and/or travel in area;
- New Hampshire and Vermont municipal, regional, and state government elected and appointed officials;
- Groups with environmental, economic, or other concerns
- Transportation stakeholders such as Connecticut River Transit and New England Central Railroad;
- Local utility companies;
- Resource agencies in NH and VT;



- NH Department of Safety and VT Department of Public Safety;
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); and
- NHDOT and the VTrans.

# Guiding Principles

## *Characteristics of the Process Contributing to Excellence*

- Communication with all stakeholders is open, honest, early, and continuous.
- A multidisciplinary team is available throughout the process, with disciplines representing the needs of the specific project, and with the inclusion of the public.
- A commitment to the process from top agency officials and local leaders is secured.
- The public involvement process, which includes informal meetings, is tailored to the project.
- A range of tools for communication about project development is used (e.g., visualization).



## *Qualities of Excellence in Transportation Design*

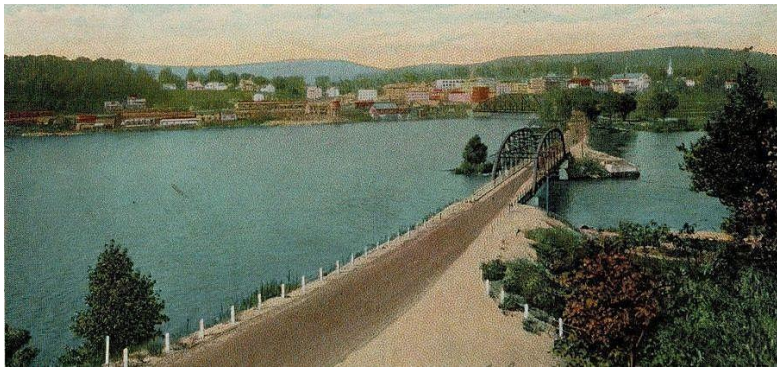
- The project satisfies the purpose and needs as previously identified by stakeholders and embodied in the project's environmental assessment report completed in December 2013.
- The project involves efficient and effective use of the resources (time, budget, community) of all involved parties.
- The project is seen as having added lasting value to the community.



# Project Purpose and Need

## Purpose:

To provide a safe, functionally efficient, and cost-effective Route 119 transportation corridor across the Connecticut River in the vicinity of downtown Brattleboro, VT and Hinsdale, NH, and to preserve the socio-economic and environmental resources associated with the transportation corridor.



Source: <http://brattleborohistory.com>

## Need:

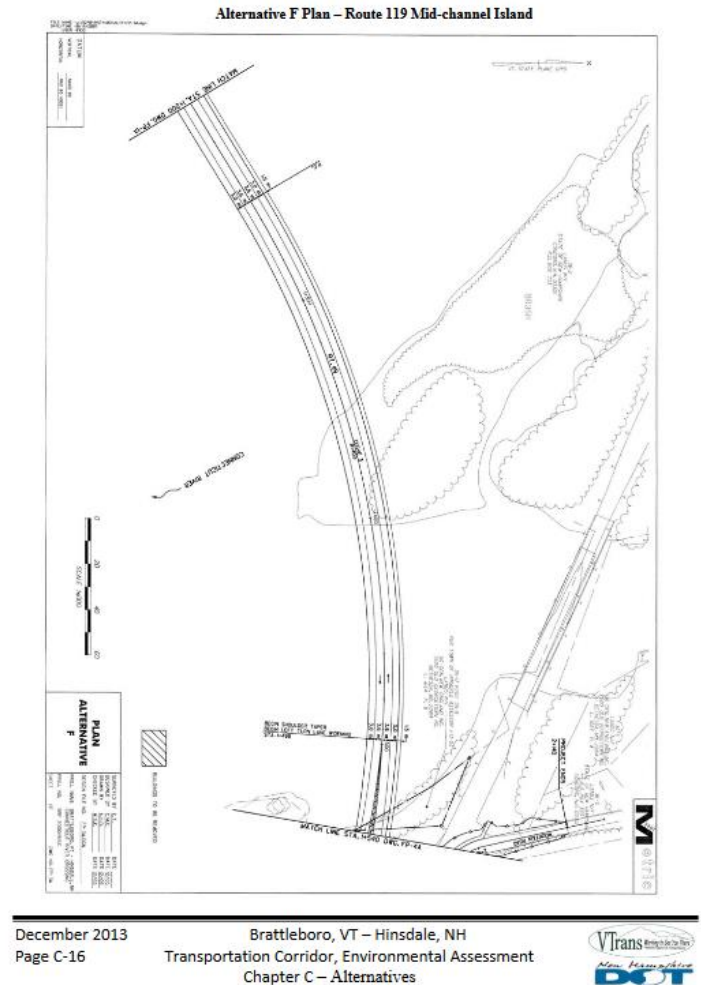
There exists a need for the project to:

- a) maintain a transportation corridor between Hinsdale, NH and downtown Brattleboro, VT;
- b) correct the safety, structural, and functional deficiencies of the existing transportation corridor;
- c) maintain area social and economic relationships;
- d) preserve the integrity of area resources to the extent possible; and
- e) conserve fiscal resources.

# Preferred Alternative

- Known as Alternative F
- Replace existing bridges with single bridge approximately 1,000 ft. south of existing Route 119
- Connect into Vermont as T intersection with VT 142
- New bridge steel I-beam girder bridge
- Sidewalk on upstream side of bridge
- Grade separated railroad crossing in Vermont

The project is listed in the current, approved NHDOT 10-Year Transportation Improvement Plan dated June 24, 2016 for construction beginning in 2019 with a total cost, including Vermont's share, of approximately \$45 million.



# NH Project Development Process

1. Project Scoping / Data Collection / Coordination (COMPLETE)
2. Preliminary Engineering Studies / Environmental Evaluation (COMPLETE)
3. Identification of Preferred Alternative / Draft Environmental Documentation (COMPLETE)
4. Selected Alternative / Final Environmental Documentation (COMPLETE)
5. Formal Public Hearing Process
6. Final Design (Project Construction Plan Development) / Right-of-Way Acquisition)
7. Project Construction





# Public Involvement to Date

- Public Involvement processes associated with project since the early 1990s
- Earlier versions of Hinsdale, NH – Brattleboro, VT Bridge Committees
- Technical working groups from NHDOT, VTTrans and consultant engineers
- Purpose and Need and Preferred Alternative in 1998, reaffirmed in 2000, 2005 and 2012



# Project Lead Team & Project Advisory Committee

## Project Lead Team:

10 Representatives from NHDOT, VTrans, Windham Regional Commission and Southwest Region Planning Commission



## Project Advisory Committee:

15 Representatives from local government, state legislatures, regional transportation committees, and business groups.



# PAC Guidelines: How we treat each other

1. Each member has an equal right to speak and ask questions. There are no “dumb questions”.
2. Each member is encouraged to share individual viewpoints. Individual opinions are valid whether others agree with them or not.
3. We will listen to, respect and seek to understand the views of others, particularly those perspectives that differ from our own.
4. Disagreements will be explored not suppressed.
5. We will be courteous when addressing other members, staff, consultants, and members of the public.
6. We will refrain from interrupting each other, staff, consultants, and members of the public.
7. We will keep our comments relevant to the topic under discussion.



# PAC Guidelines: How we arrive at recommendations

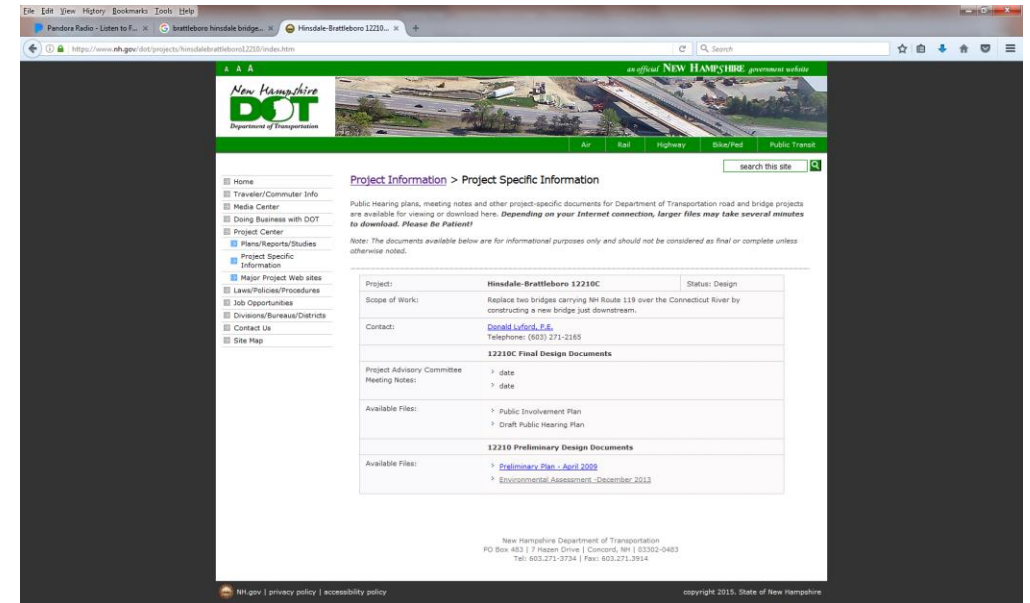
1. The Project Advisory Committee will operate by consensus whenever possible. Consensus does not necessarily mean agreement or active support by each member. Those not objecting are not necessarily indicating that they favor, but merely that they can **“live with it.”**
2. In the absence of consensus, a super majority of three-quarters (75%) of the Project Advisory Committee members present is required for approval of an action.
3. Participation in the recommendation-making of the Project Advisory Committee shall be limited to its members.
4. In order to provide continuity in the group’s discussions, members are asked to make every effort to attend all meetings. However, if a member cannot attend, he or she may designate an alternate to attend and participate in discussions of the Project Advisory Committee in his or her absence.
5. Non-members shall attend as observers and may be invited to offer comments, if time allows.

# PAC Guidelines: Role as Liaisons to the Project Development Process

1. As it is NHDOT and VTrans' intent that the members of the Project Advisory Committee represent the interests of a wide cross-section of citizens who live and work in the project area, PAC members are encouraged to report on project issues to others, particularly to groups or organizations to which they belong, and to bring input to PAC meetings that reflects the interests of these individuals and groups.
2. It will be helpful if PAC members explain to others the process being used to develop the project concepts so they better understand how the project is progressing.

# Communication

- Project Advisory Committee Meetings
- E-mail
- Public Information Meeting and Public Hearing
- NHDOT Project Website:  
[www.nh.gov/dot/projects/hinsdalebrattleboro12210/index.htm](http://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/hinsdalebrattleboro12210/index.htm)
- Partner websites: VTrans, WRC & SWRPC
- Other websites: Keene Sentinel & Brattleboro Reformer





# Recommendations

1. Approve Public Involvement Plan with any modifications
2. Vote on co-chair nomination