

# New Ipswich 14465

NH 123 / NH 124 Bridge Over Souhegan River  
"Highbridge"

*Project Advisory Committee*

*Meeting #6*

January 6, 2010



# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Minutes of 12/2/09 meeting
- Discuss Screening Process and Criteria
- Review Detour Alternatives
- Next Steps => Public Info Mtg

# Introductions

- Design Team
- Project Advisory Committee

# CSS Steps

Public  
Hearing

Preferred  
Alternative

Screen  
Alternatives

Brainstorm  
Alternatives

Vision  
Statement

Vision  
Statement

Problem  
Statement

Placemaking  
Workshop



# 12/2/09 meeting notes

Any corrections or changes?

# Problem Statement

*Adopted*  
*10/14/09*

The NH Route 123/124 (Turnpike Road) bridge, (“Highbridge”), built in 1957 over the Souhegan River in the Town of New Ipswich, is in poor condition and is on the State’s Redlist. An historic stone arch bridge structure, built circa 1820 which supports Highbridge, is deteriorating and needs attention to ensure the long-term stability of the structures. The roadway within the project area, between the intersections of NH 123/124 with Highbridge Road and River Road is narrow, lacking shoulders and adequate width for turning vehicles. The existing bridge has a sidewalk that may not be easily accessible to pedestrian/school traffic crossing the bridge. The stone arch bridge, although it is a valuable historic resource, is inaccessible and largely invisible to motorists and pedestrians. The alignment of the existing roadway bridge is skewed to the alignment of the approaches causing vehicles to strike the projecting corner of the bridge curbing. Excessive width of River Road at its intersection with Turnpike Road results in uncertain turning paths and vehicle conflict. The profile of Turnpike Road and overgrown vegetation along the roadside obstruct the sight line to the left from Highbridge Road. Viable detours are unavailable to route traffic around the bridge area for both planned and unplanned closures of the bridge. Connectivity is vital to New Ipswich residents, area businesses, commuters, schools, and emergency response.



# Vision Statement

*Adopted  
10/14/09*

NH Route 123/124 is a vital road providing access for local and regional traffic within and through New Ipswich. Highbridge crosses the Souhegan River at the junction of NH Routes 123 and 124. The corridor in the vicinity of the bridge will be enhanced by replacing the upper steel bridge, preserving the historic lower stone arch, and redesigning the approaches to the bridge. In addition to upgrading roadway safety, the new bridge and its approaches will provide opportunities to optimize the roadway width, allow for safe bicycle and pedestrian travel, and improve drainage. The project will maintain the historic, cultural, and natural resources by utilizing least impacting practical alternatives to protect the environment and aesthetic value in and around the Highbridge area. The bridge will be aesthetically pleasing, environmentally sensitive, and will preserve the historic character of New Hampshire's earliest textile mills.

# Alternative Screening Criteria

- Evaluate whether alternative is effective in addressing problems and visions identified
- Determine if concept should be included in the range of reasonable alternatives



# Screening Criteria (cont.)

## Criteria Categories

- Access
- Aesthetics
- Natural Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Economic Viability
- Implementation / Constructibility
- Mobility
- Safety
- Business Impacts

# Screening Criteria Matrix

Access	Poor	Fair	Good
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the alternative provide efficient vehicular access to and from Highbridge Road?</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the alternative provide efficient vehicular access to and from River Road?</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the alternative provide efficient vehicular access to and from Warwick Mills?</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the alternative provide efficient vehicular access to and from residences?</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the alternative provide efficient vehicular access to and from schools?</li> </ul>			
Aesthetics	Poor	Fair	Good
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would the alternative preserve the circa 1820 stone arch bridge?</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would the alternative enhance the view upon the approach to the bridge?</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would the alternative result in a new bridge that is aesthetically pleasing and in keeping with the rural character of Highbridge and the surrounding area?</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would the alternative enhance viewing opportunities of Highbridge (and the historic stone arch bridge structure)?</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would the alternative maintain historic character of Highbridge and the surrounding area?</li> </ul>			
Overall	Unreasonable	Reasonable	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the alternative address the problems identified in the Problem Statement and reflect the vision outlined in the Vision Statement?</li> </ul>			

# Detour Alternatives

## 1. Upstream detour

- Property impacts
- Queues / steep grades
- Concern with winter operation

## 2. Mill Street detour

- School buses and emergency vehicles only?
- Steep grades
- Summer only

## 3. Regional detours

- Divert heavy vehicles away from project area

# Next Steps

- Public Informational Meeting
  - 1/19/2010, 6:00 PM
  - New Ipswich Town Hall
- Continue to review and evaluate alternatives
- Public Hearing – mid-2010