# Ossipee NH 16 Bridge Replacement Project – Frequently Asked Questions

Beginning on Friday evening, September 27th at 6:00 PM, NH Route 16 will be closed to traffic for an extended weekend between Newman Drew Road and Nichols Road to allow for the replacement of the Bearcamp River Relief bridge in Ossipee.

This will mark the first time that the New Hampshire Department of Transportation will use Slide-In Bridge Construction (SIBC) technology to rapidly replace an bridge structure. SIBC technology has been used throughout the country as a way to minimize the impact of bridge replacement projects on the traveling public. Within New England, Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts have all successfully used the process.

Below are responses to several questions that have been asked throughout the development of the project.

**What is Slide-In Bridge Construction?**

This technique calls for the new bridge abutments and piers to be constructed in and around the existing bridge, and for the new beams and deck to be constructed and/or assembled next to the new bridge's final location. For those that have been traveling NH 16 through the project site, you have likely witnessed some of this work being performed on the west side of the road. Once this first phase of the work is complete, the roadway is closed for a period of time while the existing bridge is demolished and the new beams and deck are slid laterally into place. Then the roadway approaches can be constructed and the road is re-opened to traffic.

**Why use this technology in Ossipee?**

The Department's conventional method of constructing a temporary diversion road, including roadways and temporary bridges, to accommodate traffic was estimated to cost over $2 million in temporary features and would have required additional construction time and traffic impact to build and remove. The Department also considered relocating the roadway, but again, this was estimated to be more costly, would have had additional impacts to the surrounding area, and would not have provided the ideal roadway alignment in the final condition.

Using the SIBC method in this location provides an opportunity to gain experience with a technology that can be used to reduce construction impacts and costs for future projects in even busier locations. In addition to shortening the overall construction period and saving money, some of the factors that were considered for this particular location include the available regional and local detour routes, the location of the local emergency services, proximity to area hospitals, and seasonality of traffic volumes.

**Why did you pick September for the road closure?**

Some aspects of the construction work require temperatures above freezing to complete. Based on the statistical road traffic information, the contractor was provided with a spring work window (between the end of ski season and Memorial Day) and a fall work window (between Labor Day and Columbus Day

weekends). These windows were chosen as they represent the best balance between the popular travel times and the required weather conditions.

**Why are you closing the road on a weekend?**

This section of NH 16 experiences heavy commercial truck traffic during the week and higher passenger car volumes on the weekends. Many of these weekend travelers are heading to and from destinations throughout the region. By closing the road on the weekend, there is less disruption to the heavy commercial traffic, and the state route detours provide an alternate route to popular destinations like the Mount Washington Valley and the New Hampshire Lake's Region that are similar in length to traveling along NH 16.

**Why is the detour so long?**

It is the NHDOT's practice to sign detours for our projects along State Routes since these roads are under our control. However, there are many ways to travel within this region and travelers may utilize others routes open to the public. As always, road postings, signs and speed limits for any alternative route should be followed.

**Can I still get to the Fryeburg Fair?**

Motorists traveling north on NH Route 16 towards Tamworth, Conway, and Fryeburg will be directed to follow the eastern detour east on NH 25 and north on NH 153 into Conway. As an alternative, travelers from Massachusetts can also travel north on I-93 to Exit 23 and head east across NH 104 and NH 25 to NH 16 in West Ossipee just north of the construction site. All of these routes are open to legal vehicles and loads.

**Can I come to watch the slide?**

For safety reasons, it is not possible to have the public visit the project site during the slide weekend. For those that are interested in watching, a live web camera will be set up. The link will be posted on the project website later this week and go live on Friday, September 27, 2019.

For additional information about the project, and to access the web cam, please visit the project website at https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/ossipee14749/index.htm. For information about the historic nature of the existing bridges and to see a short video describing SIBC, please visit: https://www.ossipeebridges.com/.