2021 RAISE GRANT

U.S. Department of Transportation

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for FY 2021

Submitted by New Hampshire Department of Transportation

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New Hampshire DOT
Department of Transportation

Executive Summary

The Hampton Harbor Bridge Replacement Project will replace an existing bascule bridge with a fixed structure.

Project Elements

New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) is requesting a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to fund $20 million of the $52.1million needed to reconstruct the bascule bridge to a fixed structure and build other supporting infrastructure.

Key Benefits

Safety

Minimizes vehicle diversions and additional vehicle miles traveled (VMT) due to operational issues or load restrictions on the bridge and any related crashes. Crashes on the bridge may also be reduced due to the elimination of bridge lifts. Pedestrian and bicycle circulation will be improved with the addition of sidewalks and widened shoulders on both sides of the bridge, providing additional space between vehicular and active transportation travelers on the bridge.

Environmental Sustainability

Avoidance of these increases in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) due to diversions has an impact on emissions – as fewer miles traveled means less fewer emissions associated with vehicular traffic. The number of idling maritime vessels is also likely to be reduced, because a fixed structure will not require that vessels "wait" for the bridge to open.

Economic Competitiveness

The link between the seacoast communities of Seabrook, Hampton, and Salisbury, Massachusetts and points south is an important economic connection.

State of Good Repair

Moveable bridges are generally more costly to maintain and operate. This new fixed bridge will minimize O&M costs while maintaining a state of good repair.

Quality of Life

The reconstructed bridge will maintain the vital link between Seabrook and Hampton special attractors.

Benefit Cost Analysis

The benefit-cost analysis completed as part of this application indicates that the project's net present value is $23.8 million (when discounted at 7 percent), and the associated benefit-cost ratio is 1.61, indicating that a $1 investment in the Hampton Harbor Bridge Replacement Project will generate $1.61 in public benefits. A significant portion of these benefits is associated with travel time and vehicle operating cost savings.

Project Readiness

The project is consistent with state, regional, and local planning studies and will be implemented with minimal risk.

NHDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with NEPA (https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/seabrookhampton15904/documents/15904_env_03232021.pdf).

The Replacement with Fixed Bridge alternative (i.e., Hampton Harbor Bridge Replacement Project) has been identified as the preferred option. The Section 106 process is being coordinated with the NEPA process for the Hampton Harbor Bridge Replacement Project, as recommended by CEQ Regulations and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Handbook on Coordinating NEPA and Section 106. The NEPA and Section 106 reviews began early in the project planning and the processes have informed each other throughout.

Public information meetings and cultural resources coordination meetings were held at key milestones in project development (Seabrook-Hampton 15904 | Project Specific Information | Project Center | NH Department of Transportation).

Project Schedule

This project is expected to receive National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approval prior to the expected construction start date of January 2024. Design and property acquisitions will be completed prior to the start of construction, and construction is expected to be completed by June of 2027.