

**Bellows Falls Village Trustees Project Presentation**

Arch Bridge Over Connecticut River, Bellows Falls, VT – Walpole, NH / 42277

Date/Time: October 8, 2019 / 6:00 PM  
 Place: Rockingham Town Hall 3rd floor Meeting room  
 Next Meeting: NA  
 Attendees: Village Trustee: Deborah Wright, Stefan Golec. Gary Lique, Jonathan Wright  
 NHDOT: Jason Tremblay, Bob Landry  
 VTrans: Jonathan Griffin  
 Stantec: George Bogue, Israel Maynard  
 Absentees:  
 Distribution: Jason Tremblay, David Scott, Jonathan Griffin, George Bogue, Israel Maynard

Item:	Action:
<p><b>Project Introduction – Jason Tremblay</b></p> <p>Introduced team members; Bob Landry, Jason Tremblay, Jonathan Griffin, George Bogue and Israel Maynard</p> <p>NHDOT has a budget for preservation of high investment bridges which includes bridges with a deck area greater than 30,000 square feet. This bridge is being funded for preservation due to size and to extend the life of the structure.</p> <p>Jason read a statement from the NHDOT Bureau of Environment explaining that the project is undergoing NEPA process for resource review. NHDOT is evaluating Historic, Natural and Cultural resources. This is being done in conjunction with the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Requested that anyone with information about historic and archeological information regarding the project to forward it to NHDOT.</p> <p>NHDOT has completed the field review of natural resources for the project area in NH and is coordinating with Vermont Agency of Transportation on additional potential resources.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Project Presentation – Jason Tremblay</b></p> <p>Reviewed project location and indicated that Vermont side would be referred to as west side and NH side would be referred to as east side. Upstream is north side and downstream is south side.</p> <p>Existing bridge constructed in 1983 and due for preservation work to extend the life another 40 to 80 years.</p> <p>The project need was discussed including expansion joints that are damaged from plows and deteriorated pavement indicating damaged membrane and deck.</p> <p>Scope of the project is to replace expansion joints, remove membrane and pavement, repair concrete deck, replace membrane and pavement, and remove</p>	

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<p>the light poles on the south side of the bridge. The light on the Vermont side is on, the 3 in NH are off. A discontinuance memo was issued that shut these lights off in 2012.</p> <p>The Project is proposed to be constructed in three phases, in the first phase traffic will be moved to the north side of the bridge in two 11'-6" lanes. Traffic will be separated from the workzone with concrete barrier. There will be a 14'-10" workzone, and pedestrian traffic will be maintained on the existing sidewalk and separated from the workzone by a temporary fence. To replace the expansion joint in the sidewalk pedestrians will be temporary displaced through the workzone but separated by fencing and concrete barrier.</p> <p>In the second phase eastbound traffic will be in an 11'-6" lane on the south side of the bridge. Westbound traffic will be in an 11'-6" lane on the north side of the bridge and there will be a 12'-10" workzone in the center of the bridge.</p> <p>In the third phase traffic will be shifted to the south side of the bridge in two 11'-6" lanes. The 14'-10" workzone will be on the north side of the bridge and separated by a concrete barrier.</p> <p>The truck turning movements were shown for phase 2 that showed the trucks would not be able to turn onto the bridge without encroaching into the workzone. Phases one and three have similar issues.</p> <p>Due to the required barrier locations truck turning movements on the west side of the bridge will be difficult if not impossible to accommodate. This means that a truck detour route would be required. The proposed detour route for trucks would be along NH Route 12, to NH Route 11, to VT Route 5 and onto I-91.</p> <p>Turning movements of Emergency vehicles were checked after the Public Meeting in Walpole, and their ladder truck will be able to make the turns as well as 10-wheel dump trucks. Special signing will be evaluated to see if we can restrict the detour route to large trucks only.</p> <p>Current anticipated schedule is to advertise for construction in 2020 with construction between April and September of 2021. Each phase of construction would last approximately 1.5-2 months. It is difficult to precisely predict phase length due to the unknown deck condition. After final pavement and markings, the project should be fully completed by October 2021.</p>	<p>JT to discuss allowing some trucks on bridge with Bureau of Traffic</p>
<p><b>Questions/Comments</b></p> <p>Comment (audience): Light poles off is a pedestrian hazard. Recommending LED solar lighting system for the walkway.</p> <p>Response (Jason): If the Towns enter into a maintenance agreement with NHDOT and VTTrans, new lights may be able to be incorporated into the project.</p> <p>Comment (Audience): Will there be temporary signals for the Vermont side in the event of construction traffic&gt;</p>	

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<p>Response (Jason): Will discuss with Bureau of Traffic and VTrans.</p> <p>Comment (Audience): Will there be any night work?</p> <p>Response (Jason): While the contractor may work long days (7 am to 7 pm), no night time work is anticipated at this time.</p> <p>Comment (Audience) Is there an opportunity to use the Vilas bridge to ease congestion?</p> <p>Response (Jason) Currently the Vilas bridge is in the draft 10 year plan for construction in 2028, therefore no.</p> <p>Followup: The more congestion in downtown reduces the businesses. The construction causes people to avoid the area.</p> <p>Discussion regarding Vilas bridge. A budget was mentioned for preservation. The Vilas bridge was not maintained.</p> <p>Comment (audience): Who is responsible for the traffic maintenance on the VT side?</p> <p>Response (Bob) It will be a partnership between VTrans and NHDOT. The construction administrator appointed by NHDOT and on-site during the construction will be the point of contact during construction.</p> <p>Comment (Audience): NH Route 12 is currently under construction, should this be used as a detour route?</p> <p>Response (Jason): NH Route 12 work should be substantially complete by the time this project starts.</p>	<p>JT to discuss temporary signals with Bureau of Traffic</p>

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

**Stantec Consulting Services Inc.**

**Israel Maynard**  
 Senior Transportation Engineer

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Attachment:

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Design with community in mind