

Walpole Project Presentation

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

Date/Time: October 3, 2019 / 6:00 PM

Place: Walpole Town Hall

Next Meeting: October 8, 2019

 Attendees: See sign in sheet
 NHDOT: Jason Tremblay, David Scott
 Stantec: George Bogue, Israel Maynard

Absentees:

Distribution: Jason Tremblay, David Scott, Jonathan Griffin, George Bogue, Israel Maynard

Item:	Action:
<p>Project Introduction – David Scott Introduced team members; David Scott, Jason Tremblay, George Bogue and Israel Maynard</p> <p>Work we are doing is preservation work. Its analogous to repairing the roof on your house. The final bridge will look the same.</p> <p>Project is 74% in NH and 26% in Vermont</p> <p>NHDOT has a budget for preservation of high investment bridges that 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>David Scott 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 see him after the meeting or 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>Project Presentation – Jason Tremblay 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 and showed photos of expansion joints that are damaged from plows and deteriorated pavement indicating damaged membrane and deck.</p>	

Item:	Action:
<p>Scope of the project is to replace expansion joints, remove membrane and pavement, repair concrete deck, replace membrane and pavement, and remove the light poles on the south side of the bridge.</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 two 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>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.</p>	
<p>Questions/Comments</p> <p>Question (North Walpole Fire Chief): There is a lot of mutual aid for emergency response between the communities of North Walpole and Bellows Falls. Will the truck detour apply to fire apparatus?</p> <p>Response (Israel): Fire apparatus with emergency lights and sirens would be exempt from the detour requirement.</p> <p>Question: Ambulance Service also crosses regularly would they also be exempt.</p> <p>Response (Israel): Yes</p> <p>Question (Audience Member): Why not do the Villas bridge first to alleviate traffic during construction?</p>	

Item:	Action:
<p>Response (Jason): The New Arch bridge is in need of preservation soon and funds are available. The Villas bridge is in the draft 10 year plan for construction in 2028.</p> <p>Comment (Audience Member): Are there any plans to restore the lighting on the sidewalk?</p> <p>Response (Jason): A discontinuous Memo was previously issued by the NHDOT to shut off the lights. If the Towns can get together and are willing to sign an agreement to maintain and provide power for the lights then the Department would leave them in place.</p> <p>Comment (Cheryl Mayberry, Walpole Selectman): The yield sign on the New Hampshire side of the bridge is obstructed by the light pole, If the light pole is removed there will not be an obstruction but if it remains can a larger sign be used, and maybe add some pavement markings to indicate the yield condition for traffic heading south on Route 12?</p> <p>Response (Jason): We will review the existing sign size and ask the Traffic Bureau if a larger sign is possible.</p> <p>Comment: The pedestrian crossing markings on the New Hampshire side of the bridge are insufficient creating a hazard for pedestrians. Are additional cross walk markings going to be done under this project?</p> <p>Response (Jason): We will review the pavement markings.</p> <p>Comment (Audience Member): Have the intersections for the truck detour route been analyzed?</p> <p>Response (Israel): No, at present the existing intersections along the detour have not been analyzed.</p>	
<p>Conclusion David Scott concluded the meeting by notifying the audience that an additional meeting will be held on Tuesday October 8th in Bellows Falls.</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.

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Design with community in mind

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Attachment:

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