

May 20, 2021

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BUREAU OF BRIDGE DESIGN**

CONFERENCE REPORT

PROJECT: WARNER
X-A001(029)
15907
Warner Br. No. 254/180, NH Route 127 over the Warner River

DATE OF CONFERENCE: May 18, 2021

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: Zoom Teleconference

RECORDED ATTENDEES:

P. Brogan	NHDOT (Presenter)
M. Dube	NHDOT (Presenter)
M. Mozer	NHDOT (Panelist)
J. Edelmann	NHDOT (Panelist)
N. Wells	NH House District 25, Representative
D. Ricciardelli	Warner Town Administrator
C. Carson	Warner Board of Selectmen, Chair
S. Bower	Warner Board of Selectmen, Selectman
T. Allen	Warner Public Works Department, Director
W. Chandler	Warner Police Department, Chief
N. Martin	Warner Conservation Commission, Chair
K. Milender	Warner River Local Advisory Committee, Chair
L. Clark	Warner Historical Society, Executive Director
E. Cancio-Bello	Kearsarge Regional School District School Board, Facilities and Transportation Chair

SUBJECT: Public Informational Meeting

NOTES ON CONFERENCE:

C. Carson opened the meeting at 7:03 by reading standard language about holding the meeting via Zoom. He then turned the meeting over to NHDOT for the presentation and introduced M. Mozer.

M. Mozer thanked C. Carson and the other members of the Board of Selectmen who were present. He then introduced P. Brogan and M. Dube who would be making the presentation. C. Carson indicated that once the presentation was complete, he would ask for questions/comments from Town officials and then the public. C. Carson also indicated that he would like the Board of Selectmen to ask any clarifying questions during the presentation, but asked others to hold their questions until the conclusion of the presentation.

P. Brogan presented NHDOT's preferred alternative for the project, which is in agreement with the Town's preferences as indicated in a letter from the Board of Selectmen in 2019. The preferred alternative is complete bridge replacement with traffic detoured around the project area along both state and local roads. During the presentation, C. Carson asked P. Brogan whether the proposed bridge shoulder width would match the existing roadway shoulder width. P. Brogan replied that the shoulder width at the bridge may be slightly wider than along the roadway approaches. He noted that this will enhance cyclist and pedestrian safety given the presence of rail at the bridge.

M. Dube continued the presentation by discussing the cultural resources in the project area and addressing impacts to those resources through various possible mitigation efforts. C. Carson asked for clarification that the bridge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. M. Dube verified that the bridge is eligible both individually and as part of the Davisville Village Historic District.

C. Carson asked if phased construction would have any effects on archeological resources. M. Dube responded that closing the bridge during construction would be a benefit to the project because it would result in a smaller overall footprint due to less excavation.

P. Brogan concluded the presentation by explaining that a public hearing to discuss Right-of-Way impacts is planned for late 2021, after which the project will proceed to final design. He explained that construction is anticipated to take place in 2024. The meeting then opened up for input and questions regarding the preferred alternatives and the cultural resources mitigation.

S. Bower indicated that there are issues at the intersection of NH 127 and NH 103 and asked if anything can be done to improve this intersection. P. Brogan indicated that this intersection is outside the project limits and would not be included with this work. M. Mozer added that a representative from the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission is in attendance at the meeting. The Town should work with the CNHRPC to discuss their concerns and advance this project.

S. Bower asked if Town funds would be needed for the project. M. Mozer responded that funding for the project will be State and Federal. No Town funds are anticipated for this work unless the Town wants work done outside of the project limits concurrently with this project.

S. Bower inquired about the service life of the new bridge. P. Brogan indicated that the anticipated service life would be 120 years. M. Mozer added that while the bridge's service life is 120 years, maintenance activities would be required during this time, including a possible replacement of the concrete deck at approximately 60 years.

T. Allen asked if there would be any grade changes along the bridge that would affect Dustin Road and drainage along NH 127. P. Brogan indicated that the proposed design would include a minimal longitudinal grade along the bridge along with a superelevated cross section to help with drainage. T. Allen also mentioned that there are drainage/ponding issues on the northwest side of the project. He asked that these issues be addressed in the proposed design.

W. Chandler asked if Dustin Road would still be accessible during construction from the north on NH 127. P. Brogan replied that vehicles would be able to both turn left onto Dustin Road from NH 127 southbound, and turn right from Dustin Road onto NH 127 northbound during the bridge closure.

N. Martin requested that the proposed drainage swale in the southwest quadrant terminate prior to reaching the trees. She explained that she does not want to see the swale extend to the bank of the Warner River, and asked that as much vegetation along the bank be maintained as possible. She also indicated that she would rather see the Japanese Knotweed located in the vicinity of the swale remain in place rather than be removed, to stabilize the bank of the river. P. Brogan replied

that the proposed swale will avoid most of the trees in the area, and any vegetation removed will be replaced with new vegetation to hinder erosion. He also noted that the swale would only impact a small area of the river bank at the outlet of the swale.

N. Martin requested that the new bridge rail be open, such that the view from the bridge is not blocked. She also mentioned that she liked the idea of black bridge rail in this location. P. Brogan noted that the current plan is to install NHDOT's standard steel bridge rail, which does not block the view from the bridge.

L. Clark commented that she believes there are both colonial and Native American artifacts in this area. She asked whether more information regarding the archeological investigation is available. M. Dube and J. Edlmann indicated that no artifacts were found during the Phase 1A Archeological Investigation. L. Clark added that she checked EMMIT (Enhanced Mapping and Management Information Tool) last year and did not see any Phase 1A reports. M. Dube responded that the report may have been added after she looked and to check again.

L. Clark asked to work with NHDOT on the final cultural resource mitigation products. She noted that she will coordinate with others in Warner, including the library, to determine what may be the best course of action moving forward. J. Edlmann responded that NHDOT will work with the Town to develop appropriate products to document the bridge and/or Davisville Village Historic District.

C. Carson asked K. Milender whether he had any comments or questions on the presentation. K. Milender replied that he had no comments at that time, and indicated that he is in agreement with the previous comments made by N. Martin.

D. Ricciardelli noted an ongoing issue with pedestrians along the southern edge of Dustin Road near the NH 127 intersection. She indicated that if two cars are approaching a pedestrian, one car needs to stop and wait for the other to pass by a pedestrian before the first one can pass. She also noted that pedestrians are pinched along the guardrail on the south side of the road. She asked if the road could be widened to better accommodate pedestrians in this area. P. Brogan replied that the design team will look into whether the space between the edge of the travel way and face of guardrail at the south side of Dustin Road can be increased as part of the Dustin Road realignment.

E. Cancio-Bello indicated he was glad to hear that construction is scheduled for 2024. He was told that construction would begin the week following this meeting and was concerned about getting students to and from school with the bridge closed. He asked for more detail regarding the construction schedule. P. Brogan indicated that construction would most likely start around April 1, 2024 and last for one construction season, ending in the fall of 2024. E. Cancio-Bello indicated that this schedule would affect bus routes in both spring and fall, and the district will need to investigate student transportation further. P. Brogan noted that the contract language will include a requirement that the contractor notify the school district at least two weeks prior to the road closure, and the district can collaborate with NHDOT to address any concerns regarding the construction schedule.

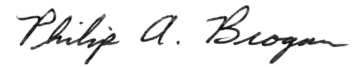
N. Wells indicated that the landowner at the corner of Dustin Road and NH 127 requested that NHDOT look at drainage issues at the end of the driveway nearest the intersection. P. Brogan indicated that NHDOT will likely need to improve the end of this driveway as part of the intersection realignment, and will look at drainage issues in this area.

C. Carson asked NHDOT when comments need to be submitted. M. Mozer responded that NHDOT would like any comments from the Town within the next few months so they can be reviewed and incorporated into the design if prudent. M. Dube requested any comment on cultural resources be submitted earlier as NHDOT is aiming to attend the June Cultural Resources Agency

Coordination meeting. C. Carson asked for any comments from L. Clark and N. Martin prior to the June 8, 2021 Board of Selectmen meeting. Both L. Clark and N. Martin indicated that was acceptable.

The portion of the meeting regarding the subject project concluded at 8:30.

Submitted by:



Philip A. Brogan
Bridge Design

NOTED BY: P. Brogan, M. Mozer