

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

**CONFERENCE REPORT**

**PROJECT:** Winchester, 12906  
DPR-BRF-X-0111(005)  
NH Rte 10 over Ashuelot River  
Br. No. 152/181

**DATE OF CONFERENCE:** April 23, 2009

**LOCATION OF CONFERENCE:** Winchester Emergency Operations Center

**ATTENDED BY:**

**Project Lead Team**

J. B. Mack – Southwest Regional Planning Commission  
Neel Patel – Southwest Regional Planning Commission  
Donald Lyford – NHDOT Project Manager (PAC Member)  
David Scott – NHDOT Bridge Design In-House Design Chief (PAC Member)  
Jason Tremblay – NHDOT Bridge Design Senior Project Engineer

**Project Advisory Committee**

(Absent) Bob Gray, Winchester Town Administrator  
Bruce Bohannon, Swanzey Emergency Management Director  
(Absent) Bruce Tatro, Swanzey Selectman  
Carol Keene, Westport Village Resident  
Cindy Richard, NH Dept of Safety, Bureau of Homeland Security &  
Emergency Management  
Clyde Keene, Westport Village Resident  
(Absent) Dale Gray, Winchester Highway Superintendent  
(Absent) Gus Ruth, Winchester Selectman  
Herb Stephens, Winchester Emergency Management Director  
Jeremy Laplante, NH Dept of Safety, Bureau of Homeland Security &  
Emergency Management  
(Absent) John Gomarlo, Town of Winchester, SWRPC Board of Directors  
Lee Dunham, Swanzey Public Works Director  
Nancy St. Laurent, NH Department of Safety, Bureau of Homeland Security  
& Emergency Management  
(Absent) Norman Skantze, Swanzey Fire Chief  
Richard Busick, Swanzey Police  
Sara Carbonneau, Swanzey Planner

**Others**

Gary Phillips, Winchester Police Chief  
Richard LaPoint, Winchester  
Kenneth Gardener, Winchester  
Ken Smith, Winchester Ambulance

**SUBJECT: Project Advisory Committee Meeting #2 Minutes**

**NOTES ON CONFERENCE:**

On April 23, 2009 approximately 20 people gathered at the Winchester Emergency Operations Center for a meeting facilitated by the Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC). The intent was for the PAC members to continue with development of the problem statement for the NH 10 bridge replacement over the Ashuelot River in order to reach a consensus. Once a consensus is reached, this problem statement will be used to develop a vision statement for the project.

**DESCRIPTION**

J. B. Mack of the SWRPC welcomed everyone and asked that the committee members introduce themselves. J. B. also asked that all members sign the sheet being passed around.

J. B. then asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the previous meeting (PAC Meeting #1). There were no comments on the meeting minutes. A motion to accept the minutes was raised and seconded, and the meeting minutes were passed. The minutes will be posted on the website @ <http://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/winchester12906/index.htm>

J. B. asked if anyone had comments on the Public Involvement Plan (PIP). There were no comments at this time, but Don reminded the committee that the PIP can change as necessary with the project and is not set in stone. A motion to adopt the PIP was raised and seconded, and the PIP was adopted. The PIP will be posted on the website @ <http://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/winchester12906/index.htm>

At PAC Meeting #1, J. B. offered to draft a preliminary Problem Statement for the project based on the list of problems developed earlier at that meeting. J. B. read his draft Problem Statement and asked for any comments/revisions to it. Several items were added to the Problem Statement based on the discussion. After some edits were made the Problem Statement read as follows:

**Problem Statement**

*The Route 10 Bridge, built in 1935 over the Ashuelot River in the Town of Winchester, is reaching the end of its design life and in need of replacement, exhibiting significant concrete deterioration and steel corrosion. The bridge itself is narrow and lacks adequate shoulders for vehicle breakdowns, cycling and walking. There are no adequate detours for traffic movements in the immediate vicinity of the bridge during accidents or other events that debilitate the roadway. Westport Village Road is inadequate to serve as a detour due to its lack of shoulders, weight and height restrictions caused by the covered*

*bridge and the roadway geometry through the village. To the south of the bridge there are significant sight distance issues on NH Route 10 and for vehicles attempting to exit Westport Village Road with excessive speed along NH Route 10 being a contributing factor. To the north, there is frequent icing during the winter months due to heavy shading and poor drainage in the area. The roadway is an important link for regional traffic to and from Keene for employment, goods, emergency and other services, as well as an emergency evacuation route for Vermont Yankee. Currently there is no access to the Ashuelot River for fire control purposes or for recreation in the vicinity of the bridge.*

A motion to approve the Problem Statement was raised and seconded and the Problem Statement was approved. The Problem Statement will be posted on the website @ <http://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/winchester12906/index.htm>

Next, Don read the definition of a Vision Statement. A Vision Statement is “a statement of desired characteristics of a place at a specific time. This statement should address transportation goals and may include other community and environmental goals related to the transportation corridor as well.”

J. B. read through five example Problem Statements from other context sensitive solutions (CSS) projects that the NHDOT has worked on. The Walpole-Charlestown 14747 project was the closest Vision Statement to what was being done for the Winchester 12906 project. A PAC member had put together a draft Vision Statement. Changes were made to the Statement as discussions about it were made. By the end of the meeting, a revised draft Vision Statement was created. This will be posted to the website so PAC members can review and bring comments/changes to PAC Meeting #3.

Don mentioned that at the next meeting, the committee would continue with the Vision Statement for approval and that screening criteria would be discussed.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 5 PM at the Swanzey Town Hall.

Submitted by:

Jason A. Tremblay, P.E.

JT/jt

NOTED BY: D. Lyford, D. Scott, J. B. Mack

cc: D. Lyford

D. Scott

L. Kenna

Bill Cass, Director of Project Development

D. Graham - District 4

J.B. Mack – SWRPC

PAC Members

