



## **Problem Statement-Approved by PAC 4/23/09**

### **Winchester 12906 NH 10 Bridge Reconstruction**

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.