

January 8, 2009

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

**CONFERENCE REPORT**

**PROJECT:** Winchester 12906, NH Route 10 bridge replacement over Ashuelot River

**DATE OF CONFERENCE:** December 9, 2008

**LOCATION OF CONFERENCE:** Winchester Town Hall

**ATTENDED BY:**

**NHDOT**

Donald Lyford  
David Scott  
Jason Tremblay  
Laurel Kenna

**OTHERS**

See attached sheet

**SUBJECT:** Initial Meeting to discuss bridge replacement project and Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process.

**NOTES ON CONFERENCE:**

Lisa Murphy of the Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) started the meeting by explaining the CSS process. The NHDOT is gathering information from interested stakeholders before any design is started so that the finished product is a collaboration of everyone's input. She turned the meeting over to Don Lyford.

D. Lyford, Project Manager, introduced Laurel Kenna, Bureau of Environment, David Scott, Bureau of Bridge Design, and Jason Tremblay, Bureau of Bridge Design. The bridge that is being replaced is the NH Route 10 bridge over the Ashuelot River. The bridge was built in 1935 and due to normal wear and tear it is reaching the end of its design life and in need of replacement. The bridge is currently #28 on the State's Redlist Bridges. The bridge is about half a mile south of the Swanzey Town line and just north of Westport Village Road. The bridge is currently in the ten-year plan, scheduled to be replaced in 2011. Federal funds will pay for 80% of the cost with the State paying for the additional 20%. Currently, no funds will need to be supplied by the Town. If any town utilities need to be relocated due to the project, the town will need to cover these costs.

Don explained the CSS process and how it relates to stakeholders and committees. Don passed out an example of potential stakeholders who could be involved in the project and asked if anyone knew who might want to be added to the list or who could be removed. Someone suggested contacting the school bus service to ask if they wanted to be a stakeholder. Don also asked if the Towns of Winchester and Swanzey wanted to form a committee. This committee would be advisory. The Towns were agreeable to this and the SWRPC will get contacts and a list

of the committee members. These committee meetings will meet every one to two months starting at the beginning of 2009.

### **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**

Someone asked how traffic was going to be maintained during construction of the bridge. It is assumed that a temporary two lane detour bridge will be constructed either upstream or downstream of the existing bridge while the new bridge is being constructed. This will allow traffic to stay on Route 10 and avoid detouring vehicles on town roads.

Someone asked if the profile of the bridge could be raised. At this point in the project, nothing has been determined yet on what the proposed vertical profile will look like. Sight distances will need to be looked at with regards to the profile.

Someone asked if a dry hydrant could be installed as part of this project. The NHDOT can work with the Town to have a dry hydrant installed.

Someone asked about the construction schedule. The work could possibly be done in one construction season but, depending on what is proposed, could go for two seasons.

Someone asked about constructing a canoe/kayak launch ramp. This is something that can be looked into as the process proceeds and plans are developed. It was also noted that someone would have to maintain the boat launch after the construction was completed. This is something that would have to be worked out if this item was added to the project scope.

Someone asked about what vehicles the temporary bridge would be able to carry. The temporary bridge would be designed for legal loads and will be able to carry the same vehicles as the existing bridge is carrying today.

Someone asked about a breakdown lane on the bridge. This is something that can be looked into as the process proceeds and plans are developed.

Someone asked about drainage. Drainage will be looked at and any water will be treated appropriately before being discharged into the Ashuelot River in accordance with NH DES and US EPA standards.

Someone asked about the current condition of the bridge and if it would require any emergency repairs before construction. At the current moment, there is no need for any emergency repairs. Since the bridge is on the State's Red List, it is inspected every six months. Also, there are no anticipated down postings of the bridge before construction.

Someone asked about the dwarf wedge mussel population that was identified upstream near the Slate Bridge. During the environmental review process, coordination with various resource agencies will allow our department to consult with the appropriate resource agencies to address this issue.

Someone asked about the cost of the temporary bridge. A temporary bridge in this area could cost between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000.

Someone asked if there was going to be any other construction in the area when the bridge was being replaced. This will be looked into.

Someone asked about traffic counts for this section of Route 10. Records indicate that in 2004 there was a traffic count of 7200 vehicles per day. At the meeting, 10,000 vehicles per day was incorrectly reported as the traffic count.

Someone asked if the bridge could be built in phases. At this point in the process, this has not been determined, but if a temporary detour was in place, it would be easier to replace the existing bridge all at once. With phased construction, traffic control becomes an issue as well as cost.

Someone asked if the bridge would be precast off site. At this point in the process, this has not been determined.

Someone asked if the nearby roads would have access during construction. It is anticipated that during construction access to nearby roads (Westport Village Road) will be maintained.

Submitted by:

Jason Tremblay, P.E.

JT/jt

NOTED BY: D. Lyford, D. Scott, L. Kenna

cc: Town of Winchester, Town of Swanzey, District 4, Bill Cass, Director of Project Development, and Highway Design

**MEETING SIGN-UP SHEET**

PROJECT Winchester  
 LOCATION NH Rte 10 over the Ashveldt  
 PROJECT NO. <sup>OPR-BRF</sup> X-0111 (005) 12906  
 Federal State

Name	Agency	Comments
David Scott	NHDOT - Bridge Design	
Jason Tremblay	NHDOT - Bridge Design	
Laurel Kenned	NHDOT - Environment	
RICHARD BUSICK	SWANZEY POLICE DEPT.	
Bruce Bohannon	Swanzy EMD	
Lee Dunham	Swanzy BPW	
Sara Carboneau	Town Planner - Swanzy	
LEONARD LAWRENCE	CONTRACTOR	
SHERMAN TEUFOLD	Selectman To of Winchester	
Dale R. Gray	Road Agent (Winchester)	
Dick LaPoint	Emergency Management	
BOB GRAY	Town Administration, Winchester	
Lisa Murphy	SWRPC	
Ted Whipple	BOS Selectman	
Gus RUTH	BOS, W.C. (Winchester)	
Mary Ryan	Westport Resident	
Carol Keene	+ business owner	
Clyde Keene	Westport Residents	
Nancy St. Laurent	TX NSEM	
Cindy Richard	NH Homeland Security & Emergency Management	
Jeremy LaPlante	" "	
LEROY E. AUSTIN	WINCHESTER, COAST ENFORCER	
HERBERT C. STEPHENS SR.	" E.M.D.	
Mark Gilmore	Winchester S. D.	
CHRISTOPHER ROBERTS	Emergency Mgmt. - Vermont Yankee WINCHESTER POLICE DEPT	
John GOMARLO	T.O.W.	