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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:** July 20, 2010

**LOCATION OF CONFERENCE:** Winchester Town Hall

**ATTENDED BY:**

**Project Lead Team**

J. B. Mack – Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC)  
Donald Lyford – NHDOT Project Manager (PAC Member)  
Michael Dugas – NHDOT Highway Design Preliminary Design Chief  
David Scott – NHDOT Bridge Design In-House Design Chief  
Jason Tremblay – NHDOT Bridge Design Senior Project Engineer  
Laurel Kenna – NHDOT Environmental Coordinator (PAC Member)

**Project Advisory Committee**

Bob Gray, Winchester Town Administrator  
Bruce Bohannon, Swanzey Emergency Management Director  
(Absent) Bruce Tatro, Swanzey Selectman  
Carol Keene, Westport Village Resident  
(Absent) Cindy Richard, NH Dept of Safety, Bureau of Homeland Security &  
Emergency Management  
Clyde Keene, Westport Village Resident  
(Absent) Dale Gray, Winchester Highway Superintendent  
Gus Ruth, Winchester Selectman  
Herbert Stephens, Winchester Emergency Management Director  
(Absent) John Gomarolo, Town of Winchester, SWRPC Board of Directors  
Lee Dunham, Swanzey Public Works Director  
(Absent) 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

# DRAFT

## Others

Dick LaPointe – Emergency Management  
Barbara Skuly – Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee  
Sherman Tedford – Winchester Selectman  
Kenneth Gardner – Town of Winchester  
Doug Graham – NHDOT – District 4 Engineer  
Bruce Willard – Winchester Resident

## **SUBJECT: Project Advisory Committee Meeting #7**

### **NOTES ON CONFERENCE:**

On July 20, 2010 approximately 20 people gathered at the Winchester Town Hall for a meeting facilitated by the Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC). The intent was for the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to review the preferred alternative and changes made to it since the last PAC meeting before the project is shown at the Public Hearing.

### **DESCRIPTION**

J. B. Mack of the SWRPC welcomed everyone and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

Winchester PAC members approved minutes from PAC meeting #3 and #4. Both Winchester and Swanzey PAC members approved the January 5<sup>th</sup>, PAC Meeting #6, minutes.

J. B. discussed briefly how the PAC members got to the preferred alternative. The process included a problem statement, followed by a vision statement. Screening criteria was developed to screen the alternatives and the PAC members reached a consensus on option #9, a new bridge built downstream from the existing bridge.

Mike D. then showed option #9 and discussed changes made to it since the PAC members last saw it.

The shoulder width within the project area has been narrowed from the previously proposed 10 feet. The existing 10 foot shoulders south of the project will be extended to the Westport Village Road intersection to provide adequate width for northbound right turns and for the by pass of southbound left turns. Beginning at the intersection and continuing north the shoulder will narrow to four feet, and extend to the limits of the new construction. The shoulder width on the reconstructed bridge will be six feet. The reasons for the reduction in shoulder were to save on cost and avoid encouraging high speeds through this section of Route 10.

# DRAFT

The parking area on the southeast quadrant has been modified from the rectangular area shown on earlier options. The parking area will be located within the footprint of the existing roadway. Any excavation of the existing road embankment will be kept above the pre-existing ground (i.e. before the current road embankment was built\_ to avoid impacts to potential archeological resources. A dry hydrant is still being looked at to see if it would work in this location. A PAC member asked how the parking area would be protected once the existing bridge is removed. Someone suggested using the existing guardrail. Boulders in this area were another option discussed.

The driveway access to Bruce W.'s property has been shifted north to provide adequate distance to terminate the bridge guardrail. The new driveway will climb to meet Route 10 and a level platform will be provided on the driveway adjacent to the roadway.

The existing bridge will be removed and pieces of it will be used by DRED in other various locations.

The rail trail will have paved aprons adjacent to Route 10.

Jason T. showed the PAC members a preliminary layout of slope lines in the area of the proposed bridge and existing bridge. He also showed a path down to the river from the southeast quadrant to the southwest quadrant. The path is shown under the new bridge but Sherman T. didn't like this location thinking that it gave people easier access to litter underneath the bridge. It was suggested that the path be extended east (i.e., away from the bridge) from the parking area drive, all within the southeast quadrant. Someone else also asked if steps could be used. The question of ADA compliance was also raised. NHDOT will look into these options and issues.

Right-Of-Way is now shown on option #9.

Don L. explained the hearing process and mentioned that it would be held at the Winchester Town Hall. A date has not yet been set, but a September hearing is anticipated.

J. B. thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by:

Jason A. Tremblay, P.E.

JT/jt

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

cc: D. Lyford

D. Scott

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M. Dugas

J. Tremblay

L. Kenna

Bill Cass, Director of Project Development

D. Graham - District 4

J.B. Mack – SWRPC

PAC Members