



LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – April, 2023

LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR 2023

Current: Installation of the temporary water main took longer than expected. Busby Construction is about two weeks behind schedule. The new water line across the Weirs Blvd has been installed. The Contractor still expects to be done with the work before Memorial Day.

Previous: The contract for the road program was awarded. Busby Construction was the lowest responsible bidder. The asphalt plants in the Lakes Region are scheduled to open in late April. The Weirs Blvd water main replacement project started on March 22nd. The contractor is presently installing the temporary water main. The goal is to have the water main installed the week of May 22d.

ACADEMY STREET BRIDGE

Current: No update.

Previous: The project is now being funded with federal dollars. The consultant has begun the effort to obtain the necessary temporary construction easements per federal regulations. This has delayed the start of the construction project to the summer of 2024.

CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE

Current: Public Works and HEB Engineers have begun scope development and the independent government estimate for the cost of design.

Previous: NH DOT has approved the selection of the consultant to design the project.

WEIRS BLVD / US ROUTE 3 BRIDGE

Current: Public Works has forwarded to NH DOT the scope and fee document for Hoyle Tanner Engineers to begin the preconstruction process. This project is currently slated for 2026. Public Works is working closely with the "Langley Cove Developer" to synchronize the two projects.

ELM STREET TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROJECT

Current: Public Works is seeking NH DOT approval of the design consultant. The project agreement with NH DOT will be submitted for City Council approval on May 8th.

Previous: The project agreement with NH DOT will be submitted for Council approval in April 2023.

LACONIA DOWNTOWN TIF DISTRICT

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

LACONIA LAKEPORT TIF DISTRICT

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

WEIRS TIF DISTRICT

Current: A Weirs TIF District Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2023.

Previous: No update.

WINNIPESAUKEE RIVER BASIN PROJECT

Current: At its April 20th meeting the WRBP Advisory Board will be reviewing the draft improvements to update the new rate allocation model on a recurring basis. The Board will also be reviewing a proposal to improve the WRBP's budget communication process with its member communities.

Previous: The Governor's proposed 10% pay raise for state employees will impact the WRBP's budget. The City's share of the estimated cost increase for FY 2024 is \$93,000. The Advisory Board's consultant completed the draft improvements to the rate model. The Advisory Board will be reviewing the model at its April 20th meeting.

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Current: The Northern Lakeport Project will begin in late April. The Briarcrest sewer force main break cost between \$30-35k to repair. There have been seven breaks in this force main in the last 10 years. The Department is exploring options to replace this line. Public Works will also camera/inspect four other sewer force mains whose condition is unknown to determine their condition.

Previous: This year's sewer replacement project on Belvidere, North and Sheridan is scheduled to begin in early May.

WEIRS BEACH RESTORATION

Current: The NHDES was contacted after the March 27, 2023 City Council meeting to discuss the possibility of back passing Weirs Beach. This is a relatively simple procedure if we are not taking sand from the water. However, when we need to take any sand from the water, even from our beach area, this will require a Wetlands Standard Dredge and Fill Application and would be classified as Major. It will require a pre-application meeting with DES before submission of the application. When discussing the addition of a jetty to the beach this is the response received from DES: *"For the jetty, Wetlands would probably not allow for the construction of a jetty for a swim area. Wetlands does allow breakwaters for protecting docking structures, but for beaches, the jetties have been known to cause more sand migration and causing damage to neighboring properties. I'm not saying it's an absolute no but in order to possibly get an approval, an environmental study on how the jetty would impact the area would have to be performed. Then you would submit a Wetlands Application that would be required to go to the Governor's Council in order to be approved or denied."*

Area Impacted: Weirs Beach

Communication Plan: This project will be done in the off season to keep the impacts low. The local newspaper will be notified, as well as the newspapers in northern Massachusetts. This will help spread the word to those who use the area the most.

Previous: The City Manager and the Parks Department are working together to move forward on this project. The Director of Recreation & Facilities is reaching out to the Army Corps of Engineers to verify whether or not they will be dredging the Weirs Channel and if so, when. Once that information is obtained, we will have a better timeline for this project. We currently have roughly \$340,000 for the project set aside. This was money earmarked for this project many years ago, but with inflation it is probably not near to the current costs.

LACONIA MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

NATIVE AMERICAN SCULPTURE

Current: The statue has been removed from City facilities and brought to a local shop for further study. The project manager is secure in the process of erecting the statue. The only item left unknown is how to properly paint the statue. This should be a fairly quick issue to resolve.

Area Impacted: The most impacted area will be the track, field and parking lot at Opechee Park. There may be a slight disturbance on North Main Street when the statue arrives, but that will be brief.

Communication Plan: There will be a large press release and coverage by many for this project. It has been years in the making and we will want to make a big splash. Newspapers, new channels and Laconia Links will all be notified of this event.

Previous: No update.