



LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – AUGUST, 2023

LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR 2023

Current: Summer St and its sidewalks have been paved. Remaining work includes installation of the ADA detector plates. Gilford Ave @ Dewey Street will have its concrete and steel plates completed at the same time as Summer St. The contractor is still working on the driveway aprons and swales on Eastman Road. The paving project on Elm Street (Hickory Stick Lane to Parade Road) is complete. The City is working with the Country Club's management on the installation of an ADA pedestrian crosswalk across Elm Street. The Country Club will be purchasing a rapid rectangular flashing beacon system (RRFB) system for the crosswalk. Paugus Street reconstruction project is scheduled to start the 2nd week of September. The Granite Street project will be done in conjunction with the project on Paugus Street.

Communication Plan: Residents will be notified by mail when the paving schedule is finalized for each road and door hangers will be placed on each property a minimum of 2 days before the date of paving. The paving schedule will be provided to emergency services and the solid waste collection contractor.

Previous: The contractor is finalizing the schedule for the Paugus Street project and the Granite St sewer and road reconstruction. The contractor plans on working these two streets sequentially. Paving in NH has been impacted by weather this summer causing last minute changes to paving schedules. The week of July 17th the contractor anticipates shimming Eastman Road, shimming Elm Street from Hickory Stick Lane to Parade Road, paving Summer Street's sidewalks and placing the shim layer on Summer Street. Final paving on Weirs Blvd was completed the week of July 17th.

ACADEMY STREET BRIDGE

Current: A public information meeting on the project is scheduled for 6 pm on August 31st at City Hall, Room 200A.

Communication Plan: The public information meeting has been advertised in the Laconia Daily Sun and the City's weekly newsletter. Abutters have been notified by mail.

Previous: Project is still scheduled for the summer of 2024. The engineering consultant is working on obtaining the necessary permanent and temporary easements to replace the bridge and the environmental documentation required for the project.

CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE

Current: The charette has been scheduled for Saturday, September 16th at 10 am at the Weirs Community Center. A charette is a more thorough approach than the standard DOT public interest meeting. This public information technique is being used based on the age of the bridge, proximity of the adjacent buildings and steepness of the approach ramps. The design team will present 4-5 concepts to the public seeking their input.

Communication Plan: Letters have been mailed out to the 191 residents of the Methodist Campground area. The public information meeting will be advertised in the Laconia Daily Sun and the City's newsletter.

Previous: Project is still scheduled for construction in 2025. NH DOT has concerns over the cost of engineering for the project. DPW met with NHDOT's program manager on July 18th to justify the cost. Public Works anticipates that NH DOT will approve the engineering costs.

HIGHLAND STREET BRIDGE

Current: Work began on 8/21. The pavement was stripped that day. Inspection determined the membrane had failed. It was caught early enough that water penetrating through the failing membrane had not yet damaged the concrete around it. The bridge's curb is separating allowing water into the structure. The contractor will fix the curbing, place a new membrane and complete paving in the scheduled 4-week period. (9/11-9/15).

Communication Plan: The public has been informed of the schedule and detour using the Laconia Links, the newspaper, the City's website alert scroll, and those properties in close proximity to the bridge were notified by mail.

Previous: The contractor anticipates beginning work on this project in the 2nd week of August. After stripping the asphalt, the contractor will check the concrete for weak areas that need to be replaced before placing the new membrane on the bridge to protect the concrete from water and salt. Due to the length of the bridge, its age and the time required for the repairs, Highland Street will be closed at the bridge.

MESSER STREET BRIDGE

Current: All concrete work on the closed lane has been completed. While the concrete is curing the contractor has moved to the Highland Street Bridge. The closed lane's new membrane and paving will be placed in approximately 4 weeks (9/11-9/15) and then the contractor will begin work on the other lane of the bridge.

Communication Plan: Emergency services and the school bus contractor have been notified on the start of this project. Message boards have been placed onsite notifying drivers of the impending start of work. Updates will be included in Laconia Links.

Previous: Due to delays in another municipality's project, the contractor has been able to put a second crew on the project. This should reduce the time required to complete the project. The contractor plans on placing concrete in the repairs in two of the three bays in the closed lane the week of July 17th. The contractor has not provided an anticipated date when the work will switch to the other lane.

MILL STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Current: No change. The City is still waiting on approval of the federal budget.

Communication Plan: A communication plan will be developed once the Federal project agreement is finalized.

Previous: Congress neither finalized nor approved the appropriation that includes this congressional directed spending project.

WEIRS BLVD / US ROUTE 3 BRIDGE

Current: The project agreement is on the Council's August 28th meeting agenda.

Communication Plan: DPW and the engineers will develop a public information schedule to be included as part of the design's schedule. A public hearing will be held in the next month.

Previous: DPW and NHDOT met on site 7/18 to discuss the project. NHDOT informed us that they should be able to support a construction start before 2027, which is the current programmed year for the project. Public Works will work with the consultant to determine if it is feasible to develop a design schedule that targets utility construction in the fall of 2024 and bridge replacement in the spring of 2025.

ELM STREET TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROJECT

Current: An Engineering Study Phase Kickoff Meeting was held with DPW, NHDOT and HEB Engineers on Wednesday, August 23rd.

Communication Plan: The Initial public information meeting for the project was held in July of 2022 to obtain resident feedback on the general concept for the project. Public Works and the consultants will develop a schedule for the project to include when public information meetings will be held.

Previous: NHDOT has approved the scope and fee for the Preliminary Engineering phase of the design effort.

LACONIA DOWNTOWN TIF DISTRICT

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

LACONIA LAKEPORT TIF DISTRICT

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

WEIRS TIF DISTRICT

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

WINNIPESAUKEE RIVER BASIN PROJECT

Current: The WRBP Advisory Board's meeting with NH DES on September 7th to discuss the Board's issues with the Department's budgeting process.

Previous: The WRBP Advisory Board has not yet received a response from NH DES on the requested changes to the budget development process.

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Current: Park Construction has completed the sewer main and services along North St. They are now working up Belvidere St. replacing sewer main. Final paving has been completed on Elm Street from Hickory to Bell (phase 2 Elm St Sewer Project).

Communication Plan: Park, the contractor for the Northern Lakeport project, will be notifying the property owners a minimum of one day before they cross a driveway. The contractor will keep Public Works and Emergency Services informed of their work schedule and updates will be included in the Laconia Links.

Previous: The installation of the Sheridan Street sewer main and services are complete. Contractor is installing the new sewer main on North Street and will then connect the sewer services to the houses on North Street before starting work on Belvidere Street.

WEIRS BEACH RESTORATION

Current: No update.

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: No update.

LACONIA MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Current: No update. Committee membership needs to be reviewed; new members need to be appointed.

Previous: No update.

NATIVE AMERICAN SCULPTURE

Current: No update.

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: The statue is still in preparation for its installation. Mike Smith, the person responsible for the statue, would like to do a fundraiser for the painting and allow people to come and paint some of the statue for a small fee. This would allow the community to be a bigger part of the statue.