



LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – AUGUST, 2024

LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS

Current: Engineering for both Appleton St and Old North Main St continues. Both projects require NHDES wetlands or shoreland permits. The Appleton Street project also requires a permit from NHDOT rail to replace the existing drainage pipe under the tracks. Based on the timeline for the required permits, it is likely that both projects will be completed in the spring of 2025. Appleton St's new drainage pipe under the railroad tracks must be installed when the track is inactive over the winter. Therefore, the Appleton St project will begin construction of some of the new drainage features late this fall. The Old Prescott Hill Road reconstruction project is complete, however additional roadside ditch work and placing additional loam/seeds on the shoulders will be completed in the coming weeks.

Communication Plan: Public Works will hold public information meetings during the design process for the neighborhoods impacted by the reconstruction projects. 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 for those roads that are only being overlayed. The paving schedule will be provided to emergency services and the solid waste collection contractor.

Previous: Old Prescott Hill Road and Daisy Gardener Road are complete. Engineering for Appleton St and Old North Main is ongoing. The consultants are working on obtaining the required DES permits for these two reconstruction projects. Sections of Pickerel Pond Road have been reclaimed. Additional stone and reclaimed asphalt from other City projects were added to the reclaimed areas to improve the road's base. The contractor is cleaning drainage ditches in areas along Pickerel Pond Road.

ACADEMY STREET BRIDGE

Current: The structure for the bridge and the new water main under the bridge has been installed. The contractor is working on installing the new drainage pipes in the project limits. The project schedule is tight as they lost a few workdays due to the weather. The contractor intends to complete the project on time. The bridge will be open for vehicular traffic by August 30th.

Communication Plan: Message boards were placed and are active. The detour for the project was in the Laconia Daily Sun for a week. Google Maps has been notified of the closure.

Previous: The bridge was closed to traffic on July 8th. The pavement was removed from the bridge on July 12th. The bridge is scheduled to reach substantial completion by August 30th when the bridge will be opened to vehicular traffic. Students return to school on September 3rd.

CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE

Current: DPW has approved the change in the scope of work of the Engineering Study. HEB will now consider the impacts of the northerly railroad crossing on the bridge replacement project and the project on the crossing.

Communication Plan: The next meeting will occur no earlier than this fall. At this meeting Public Works and the consultant will present the results of the study to include analysis of the options with some preliminary engineering.

Previous: DPW met recently with representatives from NHDOT to include their Bureau of Rail, and HEB Engineers to discuss the required bridge clearance of 22.5 feet over the railroad tracks. NHDOT may not grant a waiver for the required clearance. If a waiver is not approved, the bridge will need to be raised or the tracks lowered. HEB's Engineering Study Phase is ongoing.

MILL STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Current: DPW regularly contacts HUD to determine when we will receive guidance so that we can begin the design of the project. Public Works to date has not received any program instructions.

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

Previous: Laconia DPW is in the process of working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on defining the scope of work for the project and creating an authorization to proceed document. HUD has not yet provided City Staff with the documentation and program guidance to initiate this project. This project is fully funded through a HUD Economic Development Grant via a congressionally directed spending project sponsored by Congressman Chris Pappas.

WEIRS BLVD / US ROUTE 3 BRIDGE

Current: DPW is waiting on Hoyle Tanner's scope and fee for the Preliminary Engineering phase of the project. The project is currently scheduled for the fall of 2026. The entire bridge will be closed to through traffic for the duration of the project.

Communication Plan: Four abutters of the project were in attendance at the February 15th meeting. The 2/15/24 presentation can be found on the Laconia DPW website.

Previous: DPW is waiting on Hoyle Tanner's scope and fee for the Preliminary Engineering phase of the project. The project is currently scheduled for the fall of 2026. The entire bridge will be closed to through traffic for the duration of the project.

ELM STREET TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROJECT

Current: DPW and HEB completed the independent government estimate (IGE) for the additional scope and fee for determining if it is possible to obtain more separation between trail/path users and the roadway.

Communication Plan: This project is currently scheduled for 2028 NHDOT funding. Comments from the meeting will be added to the City's project website once the consultant completes them.

Previous: DPW and NHDOT have approved HEB's Engineering Study. NHDOT has approved the new project estimate. Public Works was recently informed that NHDOT wants 5 feet of separation between the back of the curb and the closest edge of the sidewalk/multiuse trail. The engineers are working on a proposal to update the plans.

OPECHEE LOOP

Current: NBRC has confirmed that they have all of the documentation required to issue a Notice to Proceed. DPW is waiting on the Notice to Proceed from NBRC

Previous: The project amendment has been submitted from DPW to NBRC. NBRC is currently working through the NEPA process. The project is compliant and is moving forward. The City Engineer is following up with NBRC on the status of the NEPA process.

This NBRC project must occur in late summer/early fall 2024. This project cannot go any later than that as the City will lose our grant money on the project

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: NHDES has not received guidance from DAS on personnel costs for completing the upcoming biennium budget (FY26 & FY26). The Program Administrator is still anticipating a 10 to 15% increase in the program's operations and maintenance budget. Once every 5 years the replacement value of the program's infrastructure is updated. Due to the increase in the cost of construction over the last 5 years, the Administrator is anticipating a significant increase in the replacement funds annual fee as part of this year's update. The program's budget is supposed to be completed prior to the September 19th Advisory Board meeting.

Previous: The WRBP's Program Administrator is still projecting a 15% increase in their operations and maintenance budget for each year of the next biennium budget. They do not expect to have guidance from DAS to provide a better estimate of the budget increase until late July or early August. The Administrator expects a significant increase in the cost of insurance, benefits and pay. One of WRBP's force mains in Gilford developed a leak. This area has had several leaks in the past. The WRBP is working with a contractor on an option to line the sewer. Based on the estimated cost, WRBP anticipates using Replacement Program funds for this project. Fifty percent of the cost of repairing this force main will be funded by all members based on the member's share of the replacement fund. The other 50% is the responsibility of Gilford.

The last of the three rate allocation adjustments took effect on July 1st. The WRBP has the information necessary to complete the calculations necessary for the next rate allocation adjustment.

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Current: The White Oaks Road project MOU will be shared by the end of August with all project stakeholders. DPW has been working with the engineer of record (Brown Engineering) and our contractor (Busby) to finalize the sewer extension design. A subcontractor will be probing the project corridor for ledge by the end of August to finalize scope/fee.

Communication Plan: The contractor notifies the residents the day before the scheduled cleaning of sewer lines in a street.

Previous: The easements necessary to connect the proposed White Oaks Road sewer main to the Weirs Blvd sewer main are in final edit before sharing with stakeholders. DPW has just received and is reviewing the preliminary engineering design drawings for the project.

WEIRS BEACH RESTORATION

Current: DES has been contacted again using a different contact. We are awaiting a response. This project will need to be combined with a drainage study and construction to keep the current ground water from washing out the beach before any other renovations are done. It is thought that this is the largest loss of sand by far.

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: Laconia Parks & Recreation and the Planning Department met on site to discuss potential opportunities to get this project completed. There is significant runoff from ground water; that is our most serious offender of sand being removed from the beach area. Until that is solved, we will not see any real changes at the beach. A member of the Weirs TIF District Advisory Board is reaching out to DES as well as the Parks & Rec Director. Hopefully they will reach back out soon to discuss this project.

LACONIA MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

NATIVE AMERICAN SCULPTURE

Current: The team of engineers, construction workers and painters have been meeting when time allows them. Paintable caulking is how the pieces will go together and is being tested with the paint. The footing engineer is working on specs for the concrete work. They will be removing the old footing soon from the site.

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.

LACONIA STATE SCHOOL UPDATE

Current: The City Manager will provide an update at the August 26, 2024 City Council meeting.

Previous: The City Manager provided an update at the July 22, 2024 City Council meeting.