



LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – FEBRUARY, 2025

LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS

Current: DPW is finalizing the paving and road construction schedule for 2025. This will be completed by the end of February. Public Works in early March will have a coordination meeting with the utility companies and other stakeholders.

Communication Plan: A communication plan will be prepared when the list of streets for the annual road program for the Spring and Summer of 2025 is finalized.

Previous: The construction of the Appleton St stormwater drainage pond has been completed. The reconstruction of Appleton St will begin in the Spring of 2025. The reconstruction of the northern section of Old North Main Street is also scheduled to begin in the spring of 2025. The list of roads to be paved in 2025 is being finalized.

CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE

Current: No update.

Communication Plan: The next meeting will occur later than was anticipated due to the updated engineering study. The next public meeting will be held in the late spring/summer of 2025 when the summer residents have returned to Laconia. At this meeting Public Works and the consultant will present the results of the study to include the analysis of options for the northern at grade crossing with some preliminary engineering.

Previous: NHDOT approved HEB's amended scope of work for the preliminary engineering phase of the project. The additional scope involves analyzing and recommending possible improvements to the northern rail crossing on Centenary Ave. This analysis will take five months.

MILL STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Current: HUD has authorized DPW to contract for consultant services for NEPA review, field survey, geotechnical assessment and conceptual design. HUD will not give a full Notice to Proceed on construction of the project until after the NEPA process has been completed. The survey will be completed by mid-spring 2025.

Communication Plan: Public Works is managing this project using NHDOT's locally managed project process. Therefore, the study phase will include a public information meeting to seek feedback on the project. Once the study phase is complete, Public Works will schedule another public information meeting to present the project's proposed alternatives.

Previous: Weather permitting, HEB will complete the survey of the bridge, and its approaches by the end of February.

HILLIARD ROAD CULVERT CROSSING

Current: NH Homeland Security & Emergency Management (NH HSEM) has received the grant agreement from the City. It is on the Governor & Council's 2/26 meeting agenda. Once approved, HSEM will send us a copy of the approved grant agreement and an award letter. Soon after the approval of the grant, HSEM will hold a meeting to review the award and reporting/reimbursement process.

Communication Plan: Public Works is managing this project using NHDOT's locally managed project process. Therefore, the study phase will include a public information meeting to seek feedback on the project. Once the study phase is complete, Public Works will schedule another public information meeting to present the proposed alternatives of the project to the public.

Previous: No change at this time. DPW is still waiting on the Notice to Proceed from FEMA to begin the design of the crossing.

WEIRS BLVD / US ROUTE 3 BRIDGE

Current: No update.

Communication Plan: The project requires temporary construction easements. Public Works and the consultant will be meeting with individual property owners to obtain these easements.

Previous: Hoyle Tanner has the approvals needed to move ahead with the final design of the project. The project may be phased over two construction seasons (final paving waiting until the next season) to minimize the impact on Weirs Blvd during the prime tourist season.

ELM STREET TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROJECT

Current: NHDOT has accepted the Engineering Study. HEB and DPW are currently negotiating scope and fee for the Preliminary and Final Design of the project.

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 has approved the results of HEB's engineering study phase and is waiting on results from NHDOT's assessment of the study.

OPECHEE LOOP

Current: The NBRC project has a significant delay. DPW has added a precast concrete barrier separating vehicular and pedestrian traffic over the Elm St. bridge portion of the project. This is very similar to the barrier on the 175A Bridge over the Pemigewasset River in Plymouth. Construction will begin after Labor Day.

Communication Plan: Public Works will work with the area's business owners to minimize impact to their businesses.

Previous: The request for bids for the NBRC phase of the project (Doris Ray Court to Franklin Street) will be advertised on January 31st. Bid opening is scheduled for Friday, February 21, 2025. One lane in each direction will be open for traffic during 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: The working group met with the WRBP leadership to ensure the group interpretation of WRBP's method of determining the new replacement value. The information on the development of the replacement value of the system will be used to compare against other methods of determining the replacement value of the system.

DPW is working with a consultant to determine how other sewer districts calculate their reserves to support emergency repairs.

The WRBP's replacement fund is a reserve to perform emergency repairs and to fund payments on other capital projects that have received funding from the State Clean Water Revolving Fund (CWSRF). Agencies awarded projects under this fund make project payments from their existing accounts and then are reimbursed.

Member communities' representatives will be meeting on Feb 20th to develop a game plan for updating the State statute's method for calculating the replacement fund's reserve. Timing is critical as member communities must work with their legislators in July and August to have them submit and support an LSR to change the statute.

Previous: The WRBP Advisory Board working group will be meeting with WRBP's leadership on January 24th to review the method they used to determine the replacement value of the system. The Advisory Board has drafted an alternative method for calculating the value but needs additional information to complete its calculation. NH DES has informed member communities that the replacement fund bill originally due in January of 2025 can be paid later as long as the payment is made in 2025.

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Current: No update.

Communication Plan: DPW will be making direct contact with all property owners in the project area to coordinate connecting the houses to the City sewer system if their building is within 250 feet of a City sewer main and they are not eligible for a waiver.

Previous: DPW is working with various stakeholders to secure the necessary easements to begin construction on the 1st phase of the White Oaks Sewer Extension Project (Lady of the Lakes development to Sarasota Lane).

WEIRS BEACH DOCK RECONFIGURATION AND REHABILITATION PROJECT

Current: Construction is well underway. Deck replacement has been completed along the main dock. Their next step is to replace the decking on the dock section that connects the main dock to land. After that they will begin working on the finger sections of the docks. The bridge will be replaced towards the end of the project.

Communication Plan: Public Works will coordinate with the General Manager of the Mount Washington Cruise Line and the Weirs Action Committee during the project.

Previous: The project was awarded to Chesterfield Associates, Inc. The preconstruction meeting was held on Thursday, January 16th. Mobilization will occur the week of January 20th. Construction will begin the week of January 27th. The contract requires the contractor to complete the project by Memorial Day.

WEIRS BEACH RESTORATION

Current: We have reached out to the professor at UNH and are awaiting a reply to schedule a meeting date. We will need the engineered drawings to be stamped, and students cannot provide that. Therefore, we are in need of an Environmental/Civil Engineer to design this wave baffle.

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: A productive meeting was had with NHDES. They suggested we speak with an engineering professor at UNH to discuss potentially installing “wave baffles” such as they have at Spinnaker Cove Yacht Club. These are I-beams and wooden slats that go between them. They only go down about 4 feet leaving the needed flow of water to clean the beach. This will decrease the wave action as well as the wind coming off the water, hopefully creating a “Still Spot”. Once completed, we can dredge the sand and move it back to the western side of the beach to replenish. There will still be sand movement, but it should decrease significantly. There may be a need to move the I-beams to adjust here or there they stated, but that should be minimal. They also suggested planting small shrubs along the channel to keep the onshore sand in place as well.

LACONIA MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Current: No update.

Previous: The Planning Board appointed Gary Dionne and Councilor Eric Hoffman to the Master Plan Steering Committee at their January 7th Planning Board meeting.

LACONIA STATE SCHOOL UPDATE

Current: The City Manager will provide an update at the February 24, 2025 City Council meeting.