HAMPTON HARBOR BRIDGE

Public Advisory Committee Meeting

January 6, 2021

New Hampshire DOT Department of Transportation

HDR

Innovative Planning BETTER COMMUNITIES

Key Project Team Members

HAMPTON HARBOR BRIDGE

- Jennifer Reczek, PE, Project Manager (NHDOT)
- Bob Juliano, PE, Senior Project Engineer (NHDOT)
- Marc Laurin, Senior Environmental Manager (NHDOT)
- Jill Edelmann, Cultural Resource Manager (NHDOT)
- Roch Larochelle, PE, Consultant Team Project Manager (HDR)
- John Stockton, PE, Structural Lead (HDR)
- Stephanie Dyer-Carroll, AICP, Environmental and Cultural Resources (FHI)

Meeting facilitator:

- Marcy Miller, AICP, Public Involvement Manager (FHI)

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Agenda

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1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Virtual Meeting Instructions
3. Alternatives Analysis Recap
4. Environmental & Cultural Resources Update
5. Section 6(f) Considerations
6. Next Steps

Seabrook-Hampton Bridge looking northwest

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Zoom Meeting Functions

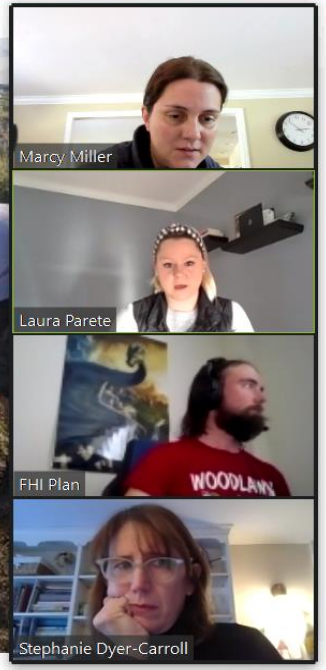
Controls may appear in various locations depending upon the device you are using

You are viewing Stephanie Dyer-Carroll's screen | View Options | View

State-Listed Plant Species Coordination

HAMPTON HARBOR BRIDGE

- State-listed plant species located in dune habitat
- Mitigation plan to be developed with NHNHB to relocate plants away from work area



Dune Habitat on the south side of the bridge

Mute / Unmute

Start / Stop Video

Mute | Stop Video | Participants 8 | Q&A 2 | Share Screen | Record | Leave

Zoom Meeting Functions

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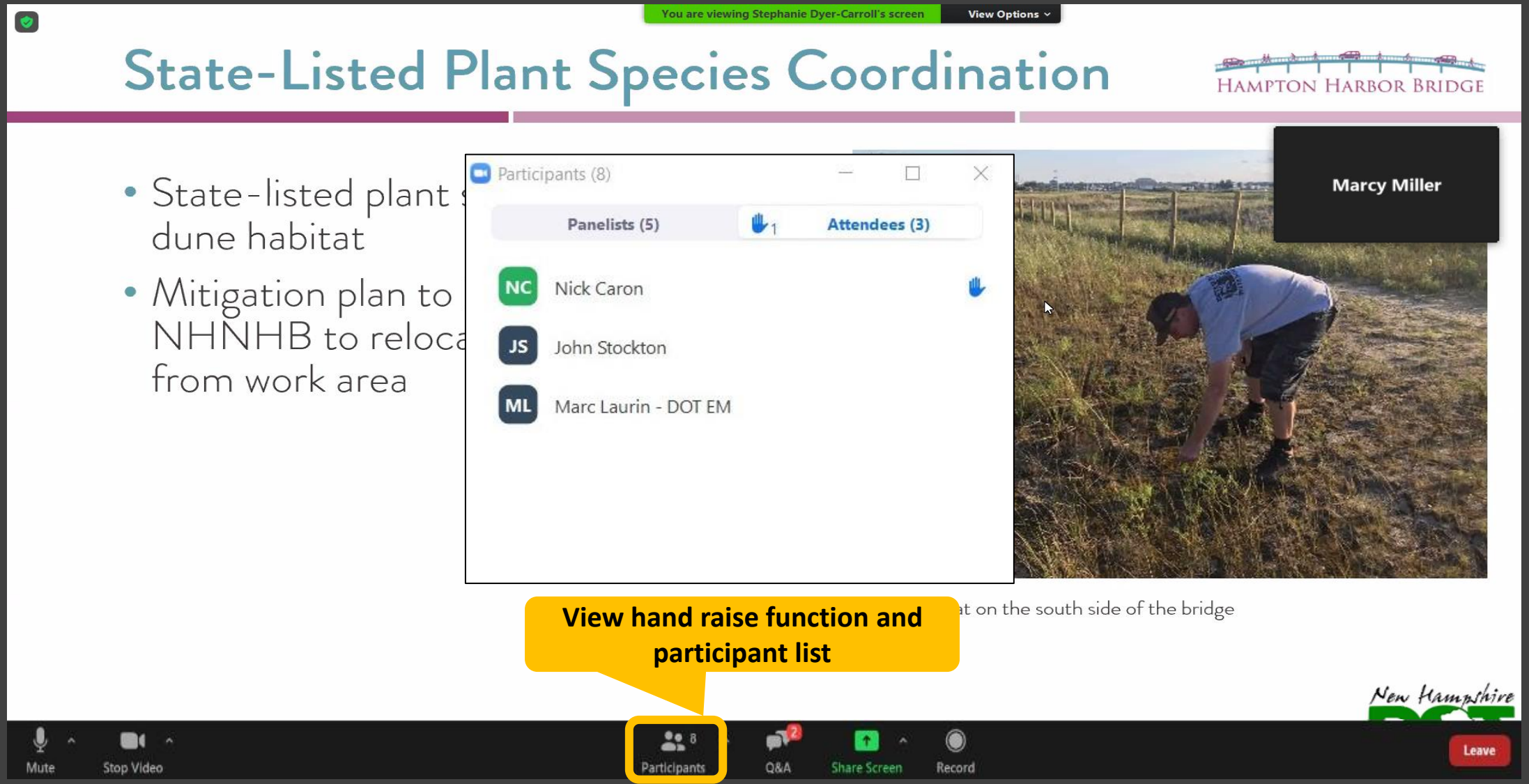

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Alternatives Analysis Recap

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Project Purpose and Need

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Purpose

- Provide a safe, reliable, and structurally sound crossing
- Improve mobility for the travelling public (vehicles, bicyclist, and pedestrians) and marine users

Need

- Structurally deficient and functionally obsolete bridge
- Many original mechanical components and outdated electrical system
- Substandard shoulder and sidewalk widths

Bascule span coupler

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Alternatives Considered

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- Rehabilitation (superstructure replacement & widening)
- Twin Bridge Concept (superstructure replacement + new bascule bridge) – added through coordination with NH Division of Historic Resources
- Replacement with mid-level Bascule bridge
- Replacement with high-level Fixed bridge (steel or concrete girders)

All alternatives meet project Purpose and Need

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Alternatives Comparison Summary

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	Widened Rehab	Twin Bridge	Bascule Bridge	Fixed Bridge
Roadway Width	50’	2 x 30’	50’	50’
Approach Roadway Impacts	Easterly	Westerly	Westerly	Westerly
No Temporary Bridge Required	🔴	🟢	🟢	🟢
Historic Impact (Adverse Effect on Bridge)	🔴	🔴	🔴	🔴
Impacts to Natural Resources	🟡	🔴	🟡	🟡
Navigational Channel Improvements	🔴	🔴	🟡	🟢
Avoids Impacts to Harbor Channel (No Blasting)	🟢	🔴	🔴	🟢
Accommodates Future Utilities On Bridge	🔴	🔴	🔴	🟢
Reduced Traffic Delays w/ Bridge Openings	🔴	🔴	🟡	🟢
Initial Construction Cost	🟡	🔴	🔴	🟢
Construction Duration	3.5 Years	4 years	3.5 Years	3 Years

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Type, Size and Location Study – March 2020

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- TS&L identifies Replacement with Fixed Bridge as **Preferred Alternative** because:
  - Accommodates widening of navigational channel under bridge
  - Allows vertical clearance for all vessels documented to have entered the harbor
  - Accommodates *Currituck* (US Army Corps of Engineers dredge vessel)
  - Avoids impacts to navigational channel within Hampton Harbor
  - Eliminates roadway traffic delays
  - Accommodates future utilities on bridge
  - Shortest construction duration of four alternatives
  - Lowest life cycle cost of four alternatives

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Environmental and Cultural Resources Update

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Aquatic Species Coordination

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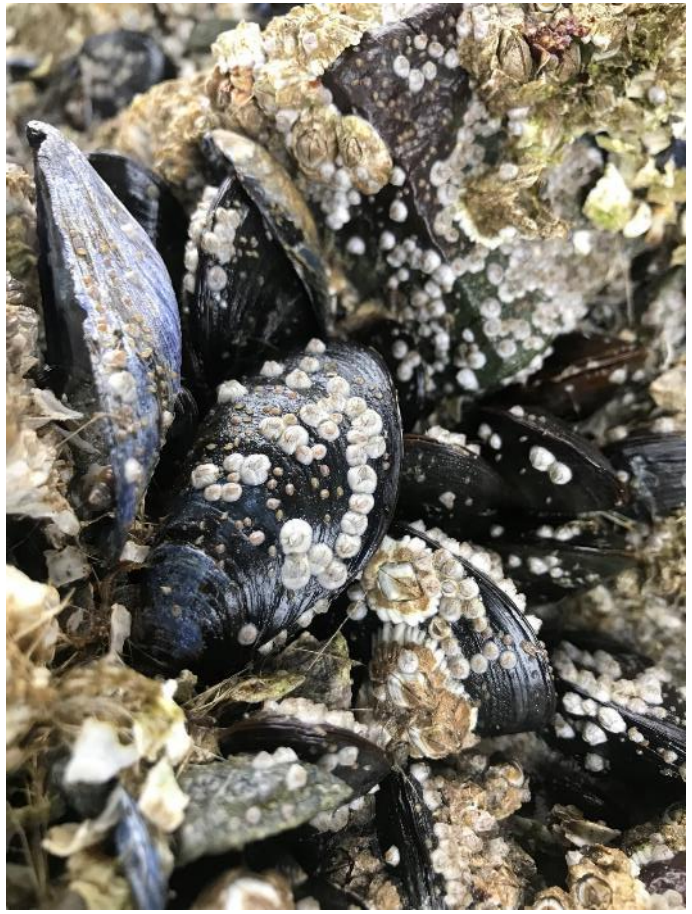
- Federally-listed aquatic species
  - Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon
  - Sea turtles
  - Submitted Programmatic Biological Assessment to NOAA and received concurrence (Dec 2020)
- Essential Fish Habitat including Blue Mussel bed
  - Submitted Essential Fish Habitat Assessment to NOAA (Dec 2020)
- In-water construction restricted to between November 15 and March 15



Mussels in bed on north side of bridge

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Avian Species Coordination

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- Federally-listed avian species
  - Piping Plover
  - Red Knot
  - Roseate Tern
- Submitted Biological Assessment to USFWS (Dec 2020)
- Conservation measures will be included in the construction contract

Piping Plover

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State-Listed Plant Species Coordination

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- State-listed plant species located in dune habitat
- Mitigation plan to be developed with NHNHB to relocate plants away from work area

Dune Habitat on the south side of the bridge

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USCG Coordination

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- Navigation Impact Report Submitted (July 2019)
- USCG Preliminary Determination concurring with proposed clearances (Jan 2020)

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Cultural Resources Coordination

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- Cultural resources documentation
  - Individual Inventory Forms for 8 properties
  - District Area Form
  - Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment Survey & Addendum
  - Phase 1B Archaeological Survey
- Historic properties identified
  - Neil R. Underwood Bridge (NR Eligible)
  - Hampton Beach Cottages Historic District (NR Eligible)
  - Eastern Railroad Historic District (NR Eligible)
  - 197 Ashworth Avenue (NR Eligible)
- Effects Memorandum signed spring 2020
- Currently identifying mitigation together with New Castle-Rye Bridge Project

Concord Avenue within the Hampton Beach Cottages Historic District

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Section 4(f) Resources

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- Hampton Beach State Park
- Hampton State Pier
- Neil R. Underwood Bridge
- Hampton-Seabrook Dunes Wildlife Management Area
- Sun Valley Beach
- Preparing Programmatic 4(f) Evaluation for bridge and *de Minimis* Finding for the State Pier

Seabrook-Hampton Bridge with Hampton State Pier (left) and Hampton Beach State Park (right) in the distance

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Section 6(f) Considerations

Section 6(f) Properties

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- Hampton Beach State Park & State Pier
- Coordinating with NH State Parks, NH Port Authority and National Park Service regarding potential 6(f) conversion and replacement mitigation

Possible Walkway Connection

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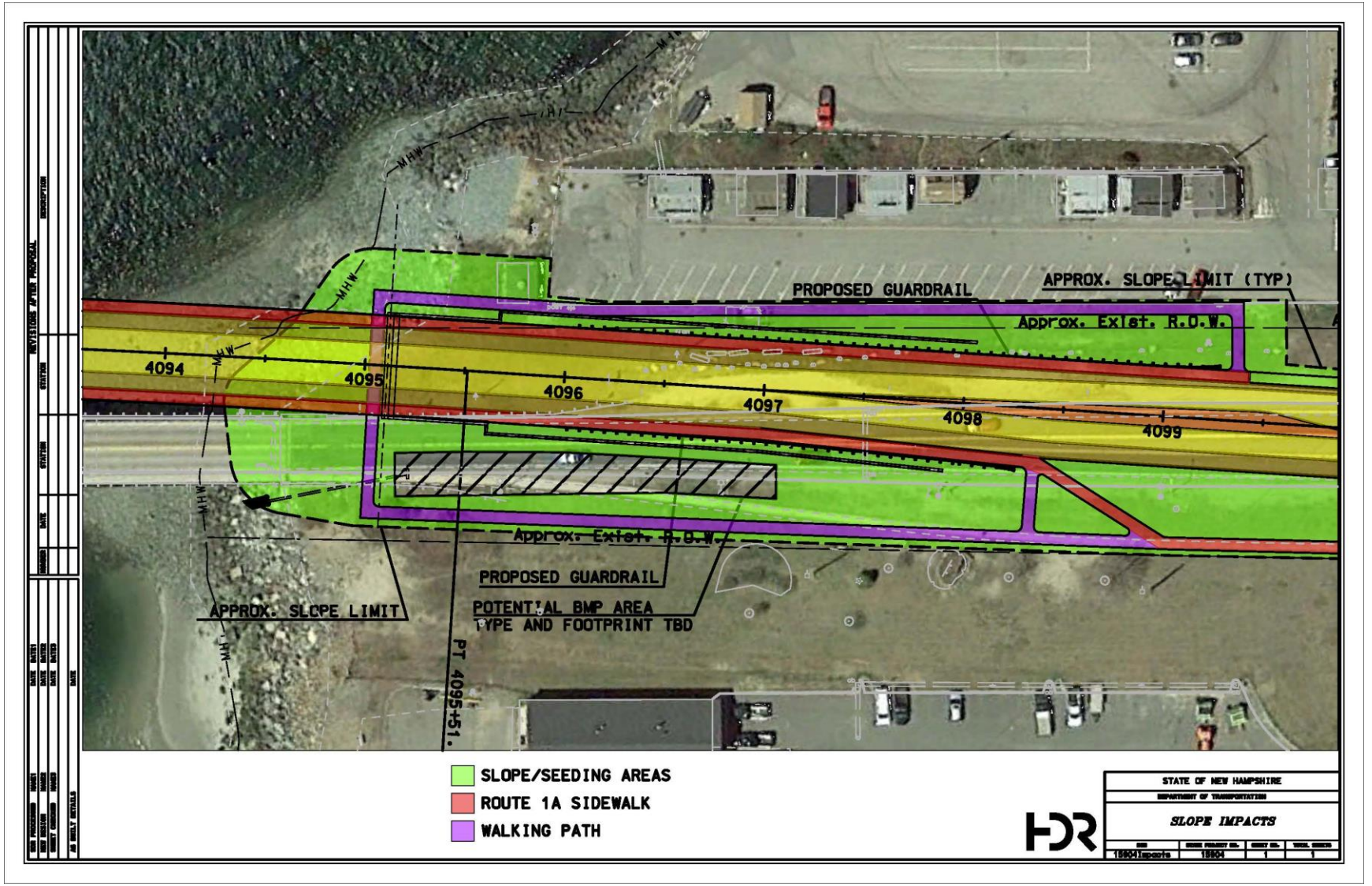

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Next Steps

Next Steps – Preliminary Design

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To move from Preferred to **Selected** Alternative:

- Conclude:
  - Identification of potential mitigation measures for loss of historic bridge and execute Memorandum of Agreement
  - Formal consultation with USFWS regarding potential adverse effects to avian species
  - Consultation with NOAA regarding EFH
  - Identification of property impacts to State Pier for 6(f) coordination and mitigation
- Publish Environmental Assessment and 4(f) Evaluation for agencies and public reviews
- NEPA Public Hearing (March 2021)
- Finalize EA/4(f), as appropriate, based on comments received
- FHWA concludes NEPA

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Next Steps: Final Design

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To move from Selected Alternative to **Construction**:

- Prepare permits and obtain approvals
  - USACE Section 10/404 - for work in navigable waters
  - NHDES Section 401 – Water Quality Certification
  - USACE Section 408 Concurrence – for alteration of a USACE project
  - NHDES Wetland Permit with Vulnerability Assessment
  - NHDES Shoreland Permit
  - USCG Bridge Permit - modification to bridge over navigable waters
  - Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Compliance – for work in state's Coastal Zone
  - Conversion of 6(f) property approval from National Park Service

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Next Steps – Final Design

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To move from Selected Alternative to Construction:

- Finalize all necessary mitigation measures
- Transfer property rights between State entities
- Complete roadway design, drainage and stormwater treatment
- Coordinate utility relocations
- Complete final design of the bridge

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Next Steps

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Questions and Comments?
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