



US Route 202 Final Design Nears Completion

Working with the community to enhance the look and feel of Jaffrey's downtown!

➤ **Project Purpose:** The US Route 202 Improvement Project aims to promote downtown Jaffrey's quality of life and boost its economic vitality by enhancing mobility and addressing the traffic congestion and safety-related concerns associated with the current configuration of the US Route 202 dog-leg intersections of Main Street with Peterborough Street and Main Street with River Street.

➤ What's been happening?

Landscape Architecture Design The project team continues to work closely with the Town and its contractor, Toole Design, to add design elements to the project. The enhancements are designed to stimulate economic vitality by encouraging people to gather and safely move throughout downtown. Notable elements include construction documents for the two roundabout center islands, including stone wall, planting, and signage. Designs also include stamped crosswalks and median tapers, street tree layout and planting details, benches and bike racks, as well as wayfinding signage and design for the welcome kiosk.

Environmental Permitting The project includes the construction of a new bridge over the Contoocook River. This requires the NHDOT to obtain permits from the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). In March 2023, the NHDOT submitted to NHDES a Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application. To offset the new bridge's impact on wetlands and the river, the NHDOT intends to make a payment to the NH Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund.

A permit application for impacts within the 250-foot Protected Shoreland of the Contoocook River will also be submitted to the NHDES Shoreland Program for review and approval. The final permits are expected to be issued in summer 2024. The USACE will also provide a permit for the project.

Cultural Aspects The project's Memorandum of Agreement requires the installation of three interpretive signs/panels as part of the project. The project team has been working closely with the Town of Jaffrey and the NH Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR) on the topics and content of these panels, each of which will measure two feet by three feet and be located within the East Jaffrey Historic District (Downtown Historic District).

Through a process of preliminary research, discussion, and refinement, the following three interpretive panel topics were selected:

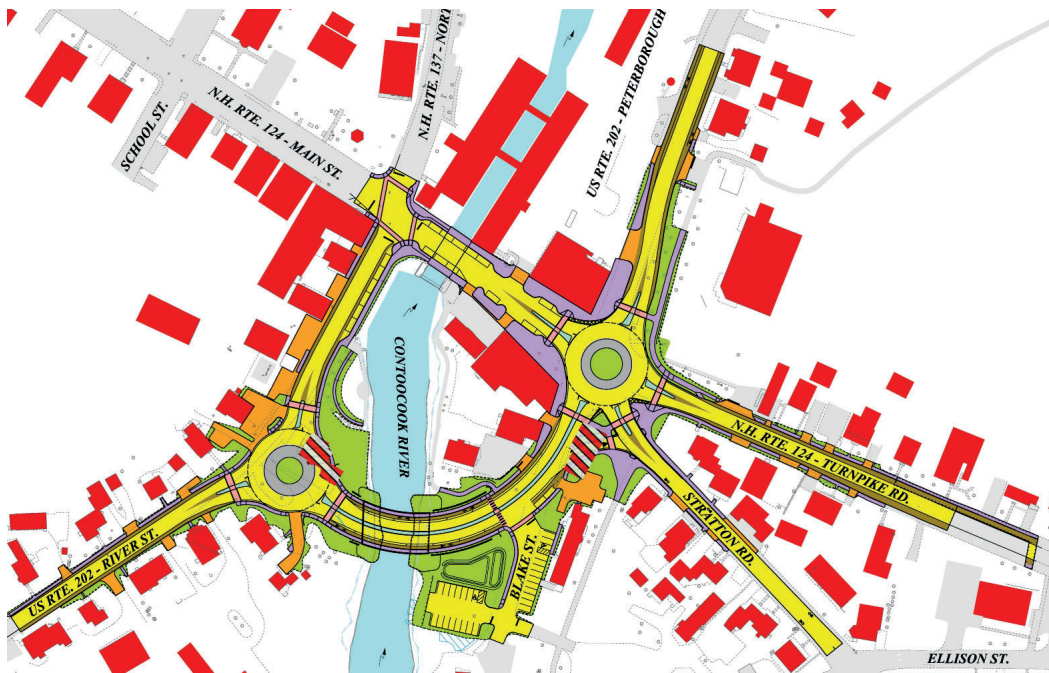
- *Historic and Extant Contoocook River Crossings* will explore the significance of these crossings to community over time, and the panel will be located near the intersection of River and Main streets, adjacent to the Contoocook River.
- *Transportation History in Downtown* will explore roadway/transportation history in the Downtown Jaffrey Historic District, and the panel will be located in the greenspace by the Monadnock Recreation Rail Trail trailhead.
- *Residential Architecture/Neighborhoods* will approach residential architecture through a neighborhood development lens, and the panel will be located on River Street along the new walkway just south of Jaffrey War Memorial Park.

Note that the Town intends to install three additional similar looking panels. These additional panels will center around wetlands/natural resources, railroad history, and a welcome/information display.

Construction Phasing In October, the project team provided the Select Board and the public a briefing on the project's status. The presentation included an overview of the project schedule and a focused discussion on the traffic control plan for each phase of construction. The construction is expected to span 2.5–3 seasons. It was noted that access to homes and businesses would be maintained, pedestrian connections would remain accessible, and no nighttime work would be required.

To oversee the construction, the NHDOT will assign a Contract Administrator who will be on-site throughout the project duration. Through regular on-site meetings, the Contract Administrator will facilitate communication with the contractor, town officials, town staff, property and business owners, utility company representatives, and the public. Continuous updates on what to expect during each phase of construction will be provided so that this information can be posted on the Town's website.

More detailed information on how communications with the public will be maintained throughout the construction period will be shared at the March 19, 2024, public meeting.



» How can I stay informed and participate?

Driving forward these improvements to US Route 202 is truly a team effort, and we'd love to hear your thoughts! You can stay involved by:

- Visiting the NHDOT's Jaffrey 16307 US Route 202 Project website:
www.nh.gov/dot/projects/jaffrey_16307/index.htm
- Connecting with the following project team members:
 - **NHDOT: Tobey Reynolds, PE**
(603) 271-7419 or Tobey.L.Reynolds@dot.nh.gov
 - **Consultant from VHB: Marty Kennedy, PE**
(603) 391-3902 or mkenedy@vhb.com

Next Public Meeting

Please join us at the next final design public informational meeting, which is scheduled for:

March 19, 2024

Jaffrey Fire Department
138 Turnpike Road
Jaffrey, NH 03452

Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. Presentation begins at 6:15 p.m.

Jaffrey residents are invited to attend and encouraged to participate in person or via Zoom. More information and Zoom links can be found on the Town of Jaffrey Website:
www.townofjaffrey.com