

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE REPORT

SUBJECT: Monthly SHPO-FHWA-ACOE-NHDOT Cultural Resources Meeting

DATE OF CONFERENCES: March 10, 2022

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: Zoom Meeting

ATTENDED BY:

NHDOT

Sheila Charles
Jill Edelmann
Jon Evans
Kevin Russell

FHWA

Jamie Sikora

Preservation Co.

Lynne Monroe
Laura Driemeyer

NHDHR/NHDNCR

Laura Black
David Trubey

Stantec

David McNamara

City of Lebanon

James Donison
Everett Hammond

PROJECTS/PRESENTATIONS REVIEWED THIS MONTH:

(minutes on subsequent pages)

March 10, 2022

Lebanon 40794, X-A004(488)

Initial consultation on the reconstruction of the Mechanic Street/High Street/ Mascoma Street intersection.

Participants: David McNamara, Stantec; James Donison, City of Lebanon; Lynne Monroe, Preservation Company; Kevin Russell, NHDOT

Stantec presented the Lebanon 40794 project, located west of the downtown square in Lebanon, at the intersection of High, Mascoma, and Mechanic Street. This is the first project resulting from the Mechanic Street corridor study completed by the City of Lebanon and Stantec. There have been several public participation opportunities to date, starting in 2013 with a Blank Slate public informational meeting and several walkabouts of the full corridor. Additional public informational meetings were held in 2014 and 2015 for the corridor. More specific meetings to the roundabout took place at the City Council in 2018 and 2021. This is the first phase of implementation of the earlier corridor study.

The project is proposed as a roundabout. It has the benefits of eliminating the existing confusing and unsafe intersection, will improve operations and safety for all users. It will also serve as gateway into the downtown of Lebanon. There are challenges, including potential Right of Way impacts, challenging topography, potential effects to historic resources and traffic management during construction.

In response to the initial request for project review, Preservation Company studied several potentially historic resources, including five individual properties and a potential district.

Additionally, the project is located at the edges of two larger potential districts, the Young Street Hill neighborhood to the north and west and the Mills District to the south and east.

Stantec presented the results of the historic inventories and the Determination of Eligibility documents. These found:

- 9-11 Mechanic Street is individually eligible as an historic resource.
- 35 Mascoma Street and 3-5 High Street are not individually eligible, but they both contribute to the Young Street Hill District.
- 6 Mechanic Street is not eligible.
- 18.5 Mechanic Street is not individually eligible but contributes to the Mills District.
- The High Street Historic District is part of the Young Street Hill District.

The project is scheduled to wrap up the Preliminary Design and NEPA phase in the spring of 2022, with Right of Way beginning in the summer of 2022 into 2023. Final Design will coincide with that timeline, and the project is anticipated to be bid in the fall of 2023 with construction planned for 2024.

Stantec requested feedback and discussion on these findings.

It was noted that the Division of Historic Resources' Determination of Eligibility committee disagree with some interpretations in the inventory forms as presented and believe the eligible resources include the Mills District, Young Street Hill Neighborhood District, the Northern Railroad District, and 9-11 Mechanic Street. The next step is for the Stantec Team to complete Effects sheets for each of the potential resources, including how project impacts to the individual resources will impact the larger districts.

Following a submittal and review of these Effects sheets, the project can be discussed at a future cultural resource meeting if needed.