



Nottingham 40612 – Public Officials Meeting

February 8, 2021

Virtual via ZOOM

Report of Meeting

Attendees:

David Scott, NHDOT

Anthony Weatherbee, NHDOT

Jason Tremblay, NHDOT

Rebecca Martin, NHDOT

Tom Levins, GM2

Town of Nottingham Selectmen

Town of Nottingham Administrator

Town of Nottingham Police Chief

The meeting purpose was to introduce the project to the Selectmen and Staff and describe the purpose and need along with the proposed work and traffic control alternatives. Anthony W. presented the project and Rebecca M. gave the environmental statement.

1. The proposed bridge typical section is 11-foot lanes and 4-foot shoulders for all alternatives. The preliminary proposed bridge span is 30 feet. The actual foundation type has not been determined yet.
2. There were three maintenance of traffic alternatives discussed:
 - Alternative 1: Bridge replacement using Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) with a 1-month closure and detour on state routes (22 miles, which is the total loop length from one side of bridge to other). Local roads will likely get used by residents to decrease detour distance. (1 construction season)
 - Alternative 2: Bridge replacement using phased construction maintaining one lane of traffic in each direction on NH Route 152 (2 construction seasons); Anthony W. explained why this alternative is not desirable regarding the condition and type of substructure and cost. It will be difficult to maintain the integrity of the existing abutments while trying to construct new abutments in phases.
 - Alternative 3: Bridge replacement using conventional construction and a temporary on-site diversion with a temporary bridge to maintain alternating two-way traffic with signals (2 construction seasons). This alternative would significantly increase impacts to the wetlands and North River (which is a Designated River as part of the Lamprey River Watershed) and also add significant cost to the project.
3. Cultural Resources: The bridge is classified as “Not eligible for the register of historic places” so full bridge replacement is an acceptable solution. No further archeological surveys required. No impact to properties > 50 y.o. with proposed layout.
4. Natural Resources: North River and Wetlands (designated river, protected shoreland, Priority Resource Area), Federally listed species (plant and bat), State listed species



(turtles, snakes, mussel, and fish), Wildlife Corridor (wildlife shelf under bridge being considered)

5. Rebecca M. gave an environmental statement and added that NHDES and ACOE permits will be required, along with coordination with NH Fish & Game and US Fish and Wildlife and water quality agencies.
6. The state route detour for Alternative 1 would be completely signed and would have vehicles travel on NH Route 152 to US Route 4 to NH Route 125.
7. The local detour for Alternative 1 would not be signed and vehicles would likely take Priest Road (gravel).

Items needing input from Town Officials:

1. Traffic Control Alternative preferred by Town: The Selectmen seemed to prefer the 1-month closure. The Police Chief and Fire Chief are not in favor of it. The following was discussed:
 - a. Selectman asked if an on-site diversion was used, would the area be restored to pre-construction conditions? Anthony W. responded that the Contract would require it to be restored, but it would entail a lot more coordination.
 - b. Selectman asked for clarification regarding 1 month vs. 1 season for Alternative 1. Anthony W. explained that a significant amount of work could be done prior to bridge closure and after the bridge is reopened. The bridge would be closed and a detour in place for 28 days but the entire project would take place over 1 construction season.
 - c. The proposed detour on state routes would be signed ensuring commercial thru traffic would not be traversing local roads. Local traffic will find the shorter route on local roads.
 - d. Selectman concerned that Priest Road (gravel) would be the most used local road during a bridge closure. Priest Road gets pretty muddy during spring. Requested closure be done in summer. Jason T. stated that could be stipulated in the Contract.
 - e. Police Chief doesn't want a closure. She feels that the local roads are not safe for high-speed response travel. Response time will increase due to closure. She stated that Fire Chief is also opposed to closure. Selectman asked if it is possible to staff an officer on each side of bridge during closure period. Police Chief responded that she doesn't have enough staff. Dave S. asked what the maximum response time was for the Town. Would the increased response time during closure be less



than the maximum response time to another location in Town? There was no response.

- f. A closure would put extra wear on local roads. Most traffic on NH Route 152 is local traffic. David S. stated that restoring Priest Road to its pre-closure condition can be stipulated in the Contract.
 - g. If phase construction is implemented, Town asked if 1 lane bridge would be safe for emergency vehicles. Anthony W. responded that it may require some work, but NHDOT would ensure safety of the one lane bridge.
 - h. Town asked if NHDOT would just do what they want regarding bridge closure. David S. responded that the Executive Office at NHDOT understands the Town's concerns regarding the ABC closure alternative. He also explained that one lane alternating traffic will involve signals and cause maintenance issues for two years. NHDOT wants to use the most economical option but is sensitive to the Town's concerns.
 - i. The Town asked what the magnitude of the savings was. Anthony W. responded that the cost was \$1.1M vs. \$1.4M. Would the Town get a share of the savings? David S. explained that NHDOT could not simply write a check to the Town. There has been occasion where a DOT contract required the Contractor to work on a Town road after completion of the work on the State road. This was to restore the Town road to the condition it had immediately prior to its seeing additional traffic due to the State's project.
2. Bus Routes: Not discussed specifically, but recommended bridge closure (if implemented) be done when school was not in session.
 3. Pedestrian and Bike Usage on NH Route 152: This issue was questioned by NHDOT but it did not lead to concerns.
 4. Emergency Response: The Police Chief and Fire Chief felt there was significant response delay with the closure alternative.
 5. Preferred closure time, if ABC used (spring, summer or fall): The Officials preferred having the closure occur during the summer to avoid school issues and spring time road conditions.
 6. Flooding History: Flooding does not normally occur over NH Route 152 but has happened during Q100 type events such as the Mother's Day storm. Beaver dam just downstream of bridge holds back flow in the river. Use of an on-site diversion/temporary bridge should be located on the upstream side of NH Route 152.

A Public Informational meeting should be scheduled for August 2021 at the earliest. The Town is holding elections in June 2021 and July and early August are vacation time for residents.