


POLICY NUMBER: ENV 3		POLICY NAME: CONSIDERATION OF STONE WALLS IN DEPARTMENT PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES	
ADOPTION DATE: <i>October 2, 2022</i>	LAST UPDATED: <i>October 2, 2022</i>		
POLICY APPROVED BY: <i>Commissioner, NHDOT</i>	SIGNATURE: 		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICE: <i>Bureau of Environment</i>	CONTACT PERSON: <i>Administrator, Bureau of Environment</i>		
REQUIREMENTS: <i>N/A</i>	REFERENCES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 CFR Part 800 • RSA 227-C 		

POLICY STATEMENT

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) recognizes stone walls as an important resource contributing to the rural character of the New Hampshire countryside. In addition, federal and state legislation require consideration of historic and archaeological resources. Stone walls constitute a cultural resource that needs to be evaluated during the environmental review process for NHDOT undertakings. The need for review of potential impacts to stone walls associated with proposed transportation projects, and the feasibility of preservation or reconstruction, is determined through evaluation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, under revised regulations for “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR Part 800) effective 2004, as well as New Hampshire State Law RSA 227-C.

SCOPE

This policy shall apply to all NHDOT undertakings (construction projects and maintenance activities) that impact stone walls. Sponsors of Local Public Agency (LPA) projects are encouraged to appropriately evaluate stone wall impacts associated with their undertakings.

DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy may be viewed on the SOS [Approved Definitions](#) page.

COMMENTS

1. It is the policy of NHDOT to implement the procedures outlined in the New Hampshire Department of Transportation Bureau of Environment [2017 Stone Wall Policy Guidelines document dated February 2017 \(Guidelines\)](#).
2. Stone wall reviews shall be phased according to the Guidelines as follows:
 - a. Project Stone Wall Rating;
 - b. Individual Stone Wall Rating;
 - c. Reconstruction Feasibility Assessment; and
 - d. Stone Wall Evaluation
3. Each stone wall in a project area for which the *2017 Project Stone Wall Rating Sheet* identified a score of 70 or more, shall require evaluation per the *2017 Reconstruction Feasibility for Individual Stone Walls Sheet*. Impacted stone walls determined feasible for reconstruction shall be reconstructed based on evaluation criteria and concurrence by involved stakeholders (including NHDOT, resource agencies, and owners of affected stone walls).
4. When the *2017 Project Stone Wall Rating Sheet* for a project does not achieve a score of 70 or more, each individually impacted stone wall shall be evaluated per the *2017 Individual Stone Wall Rating Sheet*. Individually impacted stone walls achieving a score of 26 or more shall require evaluation per the *2017 Reconstruction Feasibility for Individual Stone Walls Sheet*. Impacted stone walls determined feasible for reconstruction shall be reconstructed based on evaluation criteria and concurrence by involved stakeholders (including NHDOT, resource agencies, and owners of affected stone walls).
5. Every two years, beginning in the year this policy is adopted, the Bureau of Environment (BOE) Cultural Resources Program shall provide training to appropriate NHDOT personnel on the evaluation of stone walls under the Guidelines and this policy.
6. Any previous references or guidance related to policies, directives, procedures, manuals, and forms not included in the SOS are superseded by approved SOS documents.
7. Any employee found to have violated the SOS policies and/or procedures will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge from employment pursuant to [PART Per 1002 of the Rules of the Division of Personnel](#).

8. The SOS and all documents pertaining to it will be located in the [Index](#) on the Department's Intranet, accessible to all employees with computer access. For employees without computer access, hard copies of the SOS will be made available upon request and at all Department work facilities.

AMENDMENT RECORD

This policy is reviewed every two years to ensure its continuing relevance and accuracy. Record any amendments below.

Date	Comments	Name	Title
10/2/2022	Original Policy Adopted	Victoria Sheehan	Commissioner