



Meeting Notes

Place: Jaffrey Select Board

Date: October 23, 2023

Notes Taken by: M. Kennedy

Project #: 52792.00

Re: Jaffrey US 202 Improvements
#16307

Attendees: Tobey Reynolds NHDOT, Dan Prehemo NHDOT, Mark Suennen VHB, Marty Kennedy VHB

Representatives from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and VHB delivered a briefing to the Jaffrey Select Board during their October 23, 2023, regular meeting. Tobey Reynolds, representing NHDOT, provided an overview of the current project schedule, highlighting the plan to initiate construction advertising in July 2024, with on-site construction expected to commence in late fall of the same year. Following Mr. Reynolds' presentation, Mark Sunnen, representing VHB, took the floor to describe the traffic control plan designed for each phase of construction. Mr. Sunnen noted that the construction phase would likely span 2 ½ to 3 seasons, emphasizing that access to homes and businesses would be maintained, pedestrian connections would remain accessible, and no nighttime work would be required.

The following is a sampling of some of the comments expressed by Board members or members of the public.

Comment - Will the bridge be constructed more quickly than the ongoing construction of the Route 101 bridge in Peterborough? *Response – Yes, the extended timeline for the Peterborough bridge is primarily due to the need to maintain traffic flow on Route 101, which necessitates removal of the existing bridge and constructing the new bridge in phases. In contrast, there is no existing bridge to remove in Jaffrey and the bridge can be completed more efficiently as there will be no ongoing traffic movement on the bridge during construction.*

Comment – The Fire Chief emphasized the critical need to ensure uninterrupted emergency response capabilities during the construction period. *Response – The NHDOT is committed to ensuring ongoing communication with the town throughout the construction process. NHDOT will always have construction personnel on-site, facilitating regular meetings with all stakeholders, including emergency response teams. These meetings will address the nature of ongoing activities and strategies for maintaining smooth traffic flow.*

Comment – What type of notice will business owners, residents, and other stakeholders receive regarding the schedule for each construction phase? *Response – Before commencing construction, the NHDOT will establish a communication protocol/plan to keep business owners, residents, and other stakeholders informed about the timing of each construction phase. This protocol is expected to include a contact phone number, regular in-person meetings with on-site NHDOT staff, and ongoing information posted to the NHDOT's project website and the Town's website.*

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Comment - Is there any update on the status of 21 River St? Response – The state now owns the property. The NHDOT has a company that conducts monthly visits to ensure the property is well-maintained and doesn't fall into disrepair. The current plan is that once the River Street roundabout is operational, the state will market the building for sale.

Comment - In areas where the removal of large trees is necessary, will the state replace them with trees of comparable size? Response – The NHDOT is working closely with the Town on a landscape plan for the project; however, replacing large trees with ones of similar size presents a significant challenge.

Comment – As a business owner I would like to see signs posted during construction that will inform the public that downtown businesses remain open. Additionally, it would greatly benefit us if business owners could access graphics (like the ones presented tonight) illustrating the specifics of traffic management for each construction phase so we can provide this information to our customers and employees. Response – Yes, the NHDOT is committed to providing the necessary signage to convey that downtown businesses are operational throughout the construction. Furthermore, we will ensure that graphics are made accessible, detailing the traffic management plan for each construction phase.

Comment – The graphic depictions of each construction phase that were shown tonight were helpful for our current discussion. However, when creating graphic handouts for the businesses, please include arrows to indicate the direction of traffic. Response – Yes. We will provide those additional details.