



LACONIA PROJECT UPDATES – May, 2023

LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR 2023

Current: Busby Construction will complete the installation of the water main the week of May 15th. They will begin removing the temporary water main and cleaning up the project site. The Contractor still expects to be done with the work before Memorial Day. The paving schedule for Weirs Blvd and Lake Street has not been finalized. Other paving projects scheduled for this construction season include Paugus Street, Summer Street, Eastman Road, Elm Street from Hickory Stick Lane to Rt 106, Daisy Gardner Road and possibly Granite Street. The list will be finalized once the FY 2024 capital improvement program budget is approved by the City Council.

Communication Plan: Residents will be notified by mail when the paving schedule is finalized for each road and door hangers will be placed on each property a minimum of 2 days before the date of paving. The paving schedule will be provided to emergency services and the solid waste collection contractor.

Previous: Installation of the temporary water main took longer than expected. Busby Construction is about two weeks behind schedule. The new water line across the Weirs Blvd has been installed. The Contractor still expects to be done with the work before Memorial Day.

ACADEMY STREET BRIDGE

Current: Construction is scheduled for the summer of 2024. Public Works and the consultants met with two of the four abutting property owners on May 16th to review the temporary and permanent easements necessary for the project. Although invited to the meeting, the other two property owners did not attend it. Public Works and the consultant are in the process of scheduling the public information meeting for the project.

Communication Plan: Public Works will advertise the public information meeting in the Laconia Daily Sun and the City's weekly newsletter.

Previous: No update.

CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE

Current: Construction is scheduled for 2025. HEB and DPW have agreed on the IGE. HEB is submitting to DOT for scope/fee approval.

Communication Plan: DPW and HEB Engineers are planning on scheduling a "Charette" with the community in the proximity of the bridge. This is a more thorough approach than the standard DOT public interest meeting due to the age of the bridge, proximity of the adjacent buildings and steepness of the approach ramps. The design team will present 4-5 concepts to the public seeking their input. We are planning on holding this event on a Saturday morning this summer to maximize the attendance of the residents.

Previous: Public Works and HEB Engineers have begun scope development and the independent government estimate for the cost of design.

MESSER STREET BRIDGE

Current: This project repairs the bridge's concrete deck. The estimated duration of the project is 5 months. On May 22d the contractor will start preparations for the project by installing the safety equipment and working surfaces for the project. The contractor will use one lane alternating traffic and one lane will be open at all times during the project. The contractor will use flaggers to control traffic. Actual work on the deck begins on June 19th.

Communication Plan: Emergency services and the school bus contractor has been notified on the start of this project. Message boards have been placed onsite notifying drivers of the impending start of work. Updates will be included in Laconia Links.

Previous: Public Works and HEB Engineers have begun scope development and the independent government estimate for the cost of design.

MILL STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Current: Congressman Chris Pappas submitted the replacement of this bridge as a congressionally directed project in the Federal FY2024 budget. This is a 100% grant, the City is not required to provide a match. The Federal budget must be approved, and an agreement signed with the managing Federal agency before proceeding with the design of the project.

Communication Plan: A communication plan will be developed once the Federal project agreement is finalized.

Previous: N/A

WEIRS BLVD / US ROUTE 3 BRIDGE

Current: Borings are scheduled for May 23rd and 24th. NHDOT is preparing the project agreement for City review and approval.

Communication Plan: The initial work is within the traffic control area of the water main project and has been coordinated with Busby's project manager. The boring company is coordinating police detail and flaggers for one lane alternating traffic to protect the crews.

Previous: Public Works has forwarded to NH DOT the scope and fee document for Hoyle Tanner Engineers to begin the preconstruction process. This project is currently slated for 2026. Public Works is working closely with the "Langley Cove Developer" to synchronize the two projects.

ELM STREET TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROJECT

Current: NH DOT has approved HEB as the project engineer. DPW is reviewing HEB's proposed scope of the project.

Communication Plan: The Initial public information meeting for the project was held in July of 2022 to obtain resident feedback on the general concept for the project. Once the contract with the design consultants is approved, the team will develop a schedule for the project to include when public information meetings will be held.

Previous: Public Works is seeking NH DOT approval of the design consultant. The project agreement with NH DOT will be submitted for City Council approval on May 8th.

LACONIA DOWNTOWN TIF DISTRICT

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

LACONIA LAKEPORT TIF DISTRICT

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

WEIRS TIF DISTRICT

Current: The Weirs TIF District Advisory Board met on April 27th, 2023. Their top priorities remain the Weirs Beach restoration and the Public Dock reconfiguration. They would like for the entire list of the Weirs TIF Proposed Development Activities to be shared with the City Council before the next TIF meeting in August, 2023.

Previous: A Weirs TIF District Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2023.

WINNIPESAUKEE RIVER BASIN PROJECT

Current: At their May 18th Board meeting the WRBP should be receiving input on the proposed improvements to and standard operations procedures for updating the new rate allocation model. The Advisory Board will also review the proposed letter requesting changes to the WRBP's budget development process to give municipalities more time to program their budget and sewer rate increases.

Previous: At its April 20th meeting the WRBP Advisory Board will be reviewing the draft improvements to update the new rate allocation model on a recurring basis. The Board will also be reviewing a proposal to improve the WRBP's budget communication process with its member communities.

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Current: The contractor started work on the Northern Lakeport Sewer project. Work started on the section of pipe that starts on Belvidere turns onto North and goes up Sheridan Street. After completing Sheridan Street the contractor will start on North Street and then go to Belvidere Street. The Hillcrest Pump Station pumps have been underperforming for some time, they will be replaced in the next two months.

Communication Plan: Park, the contractor for the Northern Lakeport project, will be notifying the property owners a minimum of one day before they cross a driveway. The contractor will keep Public Works and Emergency Services informed of their work schedule and updates will be included in the Laconia Links.

Previous: The Northern Lakeport Project will begin in late April. The Briarcrest sewer force main break cost between \$30-35k to repair. There have been seven breaks in this force main in the last 10 years. The Department is exploring options to replace this line. Public Works will also camera/inspect four other sewer force mains whose condition is unknown to determine their condition.

WEIRS BEACH RESTORATION

Current: No update.

Area Impacted: Weirs Beach

Communication Plan: This project will be done in the off season to keep the impacts low. The local newspaper will be notified, as well as the newspapers in northern Massachusetts. This will help spread the word to those who use the area the most.

Previous: The NHDES was contacted after the March 27, 2023 City Council meeting to discuss the possibility of back passing Weirs Beach. This is a relatively simple procedure if we are not taking from the water. However, when we need to take any sand from the water, even from our beach area, this will require a Wetlands Standard Dredge and Fill Application and would be classified as Major. It will require a pre-application meeting with DES before submission of the application. When discussing the addition of a jetty to the beach this is the response received from DES: *"For the jetty, Wetlands would probably not allow for the construction of a jetty for a swim area. Wetlands does allow breakwaters for protecting docking structures, but for beaches, the jetties have been known to cause more sand migration and causing damage to neighboring properties. I'm not saying it's an absolute no but in order to possibly get an approval, an environmental study on how the jetty would impact the area would have to be performed. Then you would submit a Wetlands Application that would be required to go to the Governor's Council in order to be approved or denied."*

LACONIA MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Current: No update.

Previous: No update.

NATIVE AMERICAN SCULPTURE

Current: No update.

Area Impacted: The most impacted area will be the track, field and parking lot at Opechee Park. There may be a slight disturbance on North Main Street when the statue arrives, but that will be brief.

Communication Plan: There will be a large press release and coverage by many for this project. It has been years in the making and we will want to make a big splash. Newspapers, new channels and Laconia Links will all be notified of this event.

Previous: The statue has been removed from City facilities and brought to a local shop for further study. The project manager is secure in the process of erecting the statue. The only item left unknown is how to properly paint the statue. This should be a fairly quick issue to resolve.