

7

Public, Agency and Tribal Coordination

The NHDOT is committed to engagement and coordination with the public and other stakeholders to solicit input and ensure that project decisions meet public transportation needs, community goals, and protect and enhance the environment.

A *Coordination Plan for Agency and Public Involvement* was completed in October 2017 to facilitate and document the communication process for the Project.⁸² In December 2017, FHWA sent Cooperating or Participating Agency invitation letters to the following list of federal and state agencies, local governments, organizations, and Tribal Nations. Agencies which accepted invitations are noted with an asterisk. These letters were followed by publication of a Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS in the Federal Register (January 18, 2018).

Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	US Coast Guard*
US Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance	US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Federal Emergency Management Agency	Federal Aviation Administration
US Army Corps of Engineers*	US Environmental Protection Agency
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	US Department of the Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service*

State Agencies

New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Food, and Markets	New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs
New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs	New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services*	New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources*
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department	New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives

Local Governments

City of Dover	Town of Newington
Town of Durham*	

Organizations

University of New Hampshire	Pease Development Authority
Strafford Regional Planning Commission*	Rockingham Planning Commission
Rockingham County Conservation District	

Tribal Nations

Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation	Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head-Aquinnah
Mohegan Tribal Council	Abenaki Nation of New Hampshire
Narragansett Indian Tribe	Cowasuck Band - Pennacook/Abenaki People
Passamaquoddy Tribe	Koasek Abenaki of the Koas
Penobscot Nation	Koasek Traditional Abenaki Nation
Eastern Pequot Reservation	Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk - Abenaki Nation
Golden Hill Indian Reservation	Sovereign Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi
Paucatuck Eastern Pequot Tribe	Schaghticoke Tribal Nation of Kent

Meetings have been held periodically throughout the development and planning process for the Project, with various Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as with the public. Specifically, coordination has included those stakeholders noted in italics above, and several Consulting Parties under Section 106 of the NHPA, elected officials, and local citizens. These meetings have occurred since 2003 related to the larger Newington-Dover, Spaulding Turnpike Transportation Improvements Project and more recently, as of 2015, specific to the GSB Project. A summary of the meetings distinct to the GSB is provided in **Table 7.1-1**.

At the three public informational meetings that have been held to date, on the status of the GSB, members of the public were informed of the Project, alternatives, the on-going Section 106 consultation, the opportunity to become a Consulting Party, as well as additional project updates and schedule. The public was given the opportunity to provide written or oral comments to notify the NHDOT of any concerns and opinions associated with the Project.

⁸² The *Coordination Plan for Agency and Public Involvement* is available for viewing online at http://www.newington-dover.com/gsb_subsite/index.html.

Table 7.1-1 Summary of Agency Meetings and Public Coordination

Date	Type	Participants	Topics Discussed
12/10/2015	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	FHWA, HDR, NHDHR, NHDOT, FHWA, HDR, VHB	Project location, goals, background information, preliminary alternatives, and a draft schedule.
08/11/2016	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	FHWA, NHDHR, NHDOT, VHB	TSL Study, background information, graphics and photo simulations of the alternatives, and summary tables and figures of cost estimates.
10/25/2016	Public Informational Meeting	Members of the Public, NHDOT, Senator Watters, VHB	Project overview, contract updates, goals, MOA stipulations, existing GSB conditions, TSL Study, and preliminary alternative renderings.
12/14/2017	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	FHWA, NHDHR, NHDOT, VHB	SEIS Coordination Plan for Agency and Public Involvement, proceedings for SEIS, and the process to solicit and consider input from agencies and the public.
12/20/2017	Natural Resources Agency Meeting	NHDOT, ACOE, EPA, FHWA, NHDES, NHF&G, NHHNB, VHB	SEIS Coordination Plan for Agency and Public Involvement, proceedings for SEIS, preliminary alternatives, and the process to solicit and consider input from agencies and the public.
01/30/2018	Public Informational Meeting	FHWA, Members of the Public, NHDOT, Senator Watters, VHB,	Project overview, SEIS, Section 4(f), Section 106 Consultation, alternatives, and other upcoming Spaulding Turnpike projects.
04/12/2018	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	FHWA, Consulting Parties, NHDHR, NHDOT, Senator Watters, US Army Corps of Engineers, VHB	Reasonable range of alternatives and SEIS.
04/18/2018	Natural Resources Agency Meeting	NHDOT, ACOE, EPA, FHWA, USCG, NHDES, NHF&G, NHHNB, NH Office of Energy and Planning, NH Department of Business & Economic Affairs, VHB	Project overview, purpose and need, alternatives, public and agency coordination efforts, and alternatives screening process.
07/12/2018	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	FHWA, Consulting Parties, NHDHR, NHDOT, Senator Watters, VHB	Section 106 consultation, updates on historic resource inventory efforts, anticipated timeframes for upcoming public information meetings, preliminary screening process, and cost estimates.
09/05/2018	Public Informational Meeting	Consulting Parties, FHWA, Members of the Public, NHDOT, VHB	Project background information, alternatives screening results, preliminary cost estimates, bicycle/pedestrian construction access, next steps for the 11238S Contract, and a Contract Q construction update.
09/13/2018	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	NHDOT, NHDHR, Consulting Parties, Senator Watters, VHB	Project status update, changes to range of alternatives, summary of the September Public Information Meeting.
10/11/2018	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	FHWA, NHDOT, NHDHR, VHB	Closure of the GSB, Project Area Form, potential mitigation.

Date	Type	Participants	Topics Discussed
02/12/2019	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	Consulting Parties, NHDHR, NHDOT, VHB	SEIS draft alternatives analysis and Section 106 Consultation.
06/13/2019	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	FHWA, Consulting Parties, NHDHR, NHDOT, VHB	Historic property evaluation update, alternatives analysis, effects table and memo, potential mitigation approaches, impacts to the Town of Newington.
06/19/2019	Natural Resources Agency Meeting	NHDOT, ACOE, EPA, NHDES, NHF&G, NHHNB, VHB	Project status update, NHDOT's preferred alternative, preliminary construction plans, potential blue mussel bed impacts, and essential fish habitat and sturgeon species coordination with NOAA.
07/11/2019	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	NHDOT, FHWA, NHDHR, VHB, Consulting Parties	Effects table and memo review, adverse effect criteria, bridge maintenance funding and public process, bridge inventory and management plan, Newington historic district.
08/08/2019	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	NHDOT, FHWA, NHDHR, VHB, Consulting Parties	Phase IB Investigation findings, effects table and memo, potential mitigation approaches.
10/10/2019	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	NHDOT, FHWA, NHDHR, VHB, Consulting Parties	Bloody Point Area inventory form, updated adverse effects memo, potential mitigation approaches, next steps.
01/09/2020	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	NHDOT, FHWA, NHDHR, ACOE, VHB, Consulting Parties	Potential mitigation measures.
01/24/2020	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	NHDOT, NHDHR, ACOE, VHB, Consulting Parties	Potential mitigation measures.
10/08/2020	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	FHWA, Consulting Parties, Sen. Watters, NHDHR, NHDOT, VHB	Potential mitigation measures.
03/11/2021	Cultural Resources Agency Meeting	NHDOT, FHWA, NHDHR, VHB, Consulting Parties	Potential mitigation measures.

As of January 2021, FHWA has received six requests for Consulting Party status from the public: Nathan Holth (historicbridges.org); Kitty Henderson, Executive Director of the Historic Bridge Foundation; Karen Saltus, President of the Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders (Requested removal from Consulting Party list on 01/02/2020); Lulu Pickering of the Newington Historic District Commission (HDC), Anne Rugg, Manager at CommuteSMART Seacoast (Retired; removed from Consulting Party list on 10/01/2020), and Christopher Parker, Dover Assistant City Manager. Additionally, three individuals are identifying as Interested Parties: Senator David Watters, New Hampshire Senator; Karen Anderson, Newington Special Project Coordinator; and Martha Roy, Newington City Administrator. Senator David Watters has participated in several meetings with the NHDHR and Consulting Parties, although the Senator has not requested formal Consulting Party status. **Table 7.1-1** notes the meetings where Consulting Parties were in attendance.

Agency and public comments and concerns raised during project development indicate a variety of opinions regarding the GSB. NHDHR has expressed concern about the removal of the GSB,

especially since other historic bridges in New Hampshire have recently been removed, which is a concern expressed by a few members of the public. Most comments from the public support Alternative 9, with a few supporting Alternative 1. NHDOT and FHWA will take all comments received into consideration to inform the decision-making process for the Project.

In addition to meetings, other forms of communication have been implemented to solicit input and inform the public and other stakeholders of Project updates and general information. The Project website (<http://www.newington-dover.com>) provides the public with important information about the Project through a variety of methods. The Project website provides a specific link for the GSB at http://www.newington-dover.com/gsb_subsite/index.html and offers the following communication methods and opportunities, in addition to general project information:

- › Press Releases
- › Email List Subscriptions
- › Feedback and Comment Submissions
- › Project Manager Contact Information
- › Newsletters
- › Project Documents
- › Meeting Presentations
- › Meeting Notes

NHDOT will continue to engage and coordinate with the public and other stakeholders to ensure that public transportation needs and community goals are met.