

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION MINUTES



Date:	July 29, 2024	Time:	6:00 – 7:00 PM	Project #:	2024-032
Project Description:	Forest Road Bridge #105/035 over Great Brook			NHDOT #:	44523
Meeting Location:	Town Hall, Acworth, NH			Federal #:	X-A005(517)
Owner:	Town of Acworth				
Prepared by:	Trevor Ricker				Page 1 of 2

Attended By:

- » HEB Engineers, Inc.: Chris Fournier – Project Manager, Trevor Ricker – Staff Structural Engineer.
- » Town of Acworth: Charlotte Comeau – Town Administrator, Collin Crosby – Road Agent, Jim Jennison – Chairman of Select Board, Kathi Bradt – Select Board Member, Ryanne Schoonover – Select Board Member.
- » New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT): Julie Avenant – Project Manager.
- » Members of Public: see Sign-In sheet attached.

Purpose of Meeting:

- » Provide a general introduction to the project and receive public input.
- » Meet the requirements of the NHDOT Local Public Agency (LPA) Manual for the Public Input Session (also known as the “Local Concerns Meeting”).

Items discussed:

- » Chris Fournier presented a general overview of the project (see presentation slides attached).
- » A member of the public asked if the project would require realignment of the stream, similar to the Bowers Brook project. How do we make sure the replacement bridge is not damaged during a future storm?
 - Chris stated that HEB will be performing a hydrologic and hydraulic study as part of the Engineering Study. This will allow us to determine the proper hydraulic opening, based on current design standards. The replacement bridge will likely be significantly bigger than the existing crossing. Scour protection will also be designed and installed as part of the project.
 - The public member followed up, asking what storm event the replacement bridge would be sized for.
 - Chris stated that the bridge will be sized based on current NHDOT and New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) standards. NHDOT requires that the bridge pass the 50-year storm event with 1-foot of freeboard. NHDES requires that the bridge pass the 100-year storm event.
 - The public member asked about the recurrence interval of the 2021/2023 storm events that led to flooding in Acworth.
 - Chris stated that this has not been investigated, but will be as part of our analysis. If these storm events are deemed significant, consideration should be given to designing the bridge to accommodate larger storms.
 - A member of the public commented that the 2005 storm event should also be considered in this investigation, as this was supposedly a 100-year storm event, and led to significant damages.

- » A member of the public asked if HEB would also look into climate change models while designing the bridge.
 - Chris stated that it is not typical to include climate change modeling in the hydrology for a bridge. However, the US Forest Service (USFS) requires their bridges to be designed with 3 feet of freeboard over the 100-year storm event. This design criteria could be considered for this project, as a method of future-proofing the bridge design and/or accommodating for significant debris. The above-mentioned frequency analysis will help educate these decisions.
- » A member of the public asked if the brook will need to be widened below the existing culvert.
 - Chris stated that the existing culvert is a constriction in the stream. By opening up the bridge, the constriction will be removed. No significant widening of the stream up or downstream of the culvert is anticipated.
- » A member of the public asked about the project schedule. Are there time limits for the project reviews?
 - Chris stated that yes, there are time limits for the reviews.
 - NHDOT reviews are typically completed within 8 weeks.
 - NHDES also has a prescribed review period, which includes:
 - A period for the application to be deemed administratively complete.
 - A period for initial review.
 - Additional review period if a Request for More Information (RFMI) is issued.
 - The public member followed up by asking if the proposed schedule, with construction in 2027, assumes things go smoothly.
 - Chris stated that this schedule is built based on our experience with similar projects. The current schedule is realistic, with some flex time built in to accommodate unforeseen issues.

Copy: File

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PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

ATTENDEES



Date:	July 29, 2024	Project #:	2024-032	NHDOT #:	44523
Time:	6:00 PM	Project:	Forest Road Bridge #105/035		
Location of Event:	Town Hall	Location:	Acworth, NH		
Presiding:	Christopher Fournier, PE	Owner:	Town of Acworth	<i>Page 1 of 3</i>	

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
DAVID SMITH	ADJ TO BRIDGE	603-439-0633
Steve + Lori Murray	88 CRESCENT LAKE Rd	603-863-3168
DAVID CCAAT	14 CUMMINS RD	
Robin Ungeneueo	Polly Hill Rd	
Jennifer Griffin	393 Beryl Mt. Rd	603-966-0477
Bill & Mary Hildreth	553 Route 123 A	603 835-2669
MARIL BARAS	112 TUCKER RD	603 8512785
Christine Swain	250 Forest Rd.	603-202-9688
Robert L. Wood	11	603 977-6770
Carolyn Jernard	467 Cold Pond Rd.	603-863-6575

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

FOREST ROAD BRIDGE
OVER GREAT BROOK

NHDOT Project #44523

Federal Project X-A005(517)

Monday, July 29, 2024

Chris Fournier, PE

Vice President / Director of Structural Engineering
HEB Engineers, Inc.

Trevor Ricker, EIT

Staff Structural Engineer
HEB Engineers, Inc.

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION



Funding 80% of design



Federal Highway
Administration

Funding 80% of construction

WHY WE ARE HERE



To provide a general overview of the project and receive public input



Funding requires Town to follow detailed requirements and LPA processes



Tonight's meeting is the first step in the federally regulated process

PROJECT AREA



BERYL MOUNTAIN ROAD

FOREST ROAD

THAYER BROOK ROAD

Location of
Previous
Bridge

EXISTING CONDITIONS

HEB
ENGINEERS



Photo by HEB 05/20/24

EXISTING CONDITIONS

HEB
ENGINEERS



Photo by HEB 03/14/24

EXISTING CONDITIONS

HEB
ENGINEERS



Photo by HEB 07/09/24

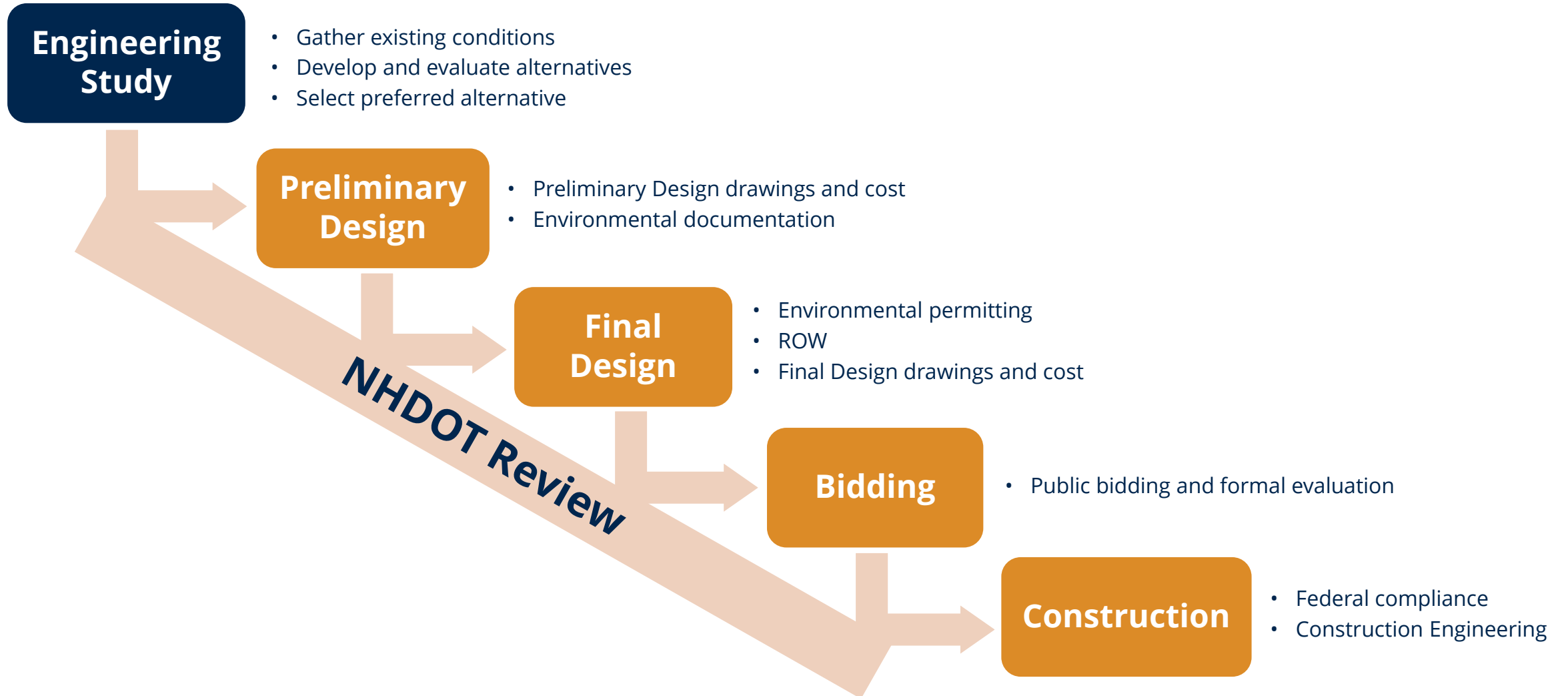
PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

- » Utilities
 - Overhead only
- » Public Safety
 - Meet current design criteria/standards
- » Hydrology/Hydraulics
 - Resilience to future storm events
- » Future Maintenance
- » Class VI road intersection
- » Project Cost



Photo by HEB 03/14/24

NHDOT LPA PHASES



NEXT STEPS

Establish the Purpose and Need Statement

- Alternative Selection (up to 3)

Establish Design Standards

- Public Safety
- Hydrology and Hydraulics

Evaluate Alternatives

- Natural and Cultural Impacts
- ROW Impacts
- Design exceptions
- Anticipated Costs

NEXT STEPS

Public
Informational
Meeting

Present Draft
Engineering Study
Report

Select the
Proposed
Alternative

Present:

- Alternative Analysis
- Proposed ROW Impacts
- Receive additional public input

- Best meets the *Purpose and Need*
- Develop Conceptual Design plans
- Finalize Engineering Study Report

PROPOSED PROJECT SCHEDULE

EXECUTE PROJECT
AGREEMENT
(COMPLETE)

Spring
2024

ENGINEERING
STUDY

Early
2025

PRELIMINARY
DESIGN

Summer
2025

FINAL DESIGN

Summer
2026

BIDDING

Fall
2026

CONSTRUCTION

2027

An aerial photograph of a wooded area with a road and some buildings. The image is dark and has a blue tint. A road runs diagonally across the center. There are several buildings scattered throughout the area, some with dark roofs. The trees are dense and green.

CONTACT:

Charlotte Comeau

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Chris Fournier, PE

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