Prepared For:

New Hampshire
Department of Transportation

Bridge Replacement & Roadway Rehabilitation Ossipee, NH

Communications Plan

State Project No. 14749

Prepared By:

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

1.0 Project Background and Overview....1
- 1.1 Purpose of Communications Plan....1
- 1.2 Project Background....1
- 1.3 Major Project Components....2
- 1.4 Project Team and Stakeholders....4

2.0 Project Process....6
- 2.1 NHDOT Project Development Process....6
- 2.2 Project Meetings....6
- 2.3 Project Schedule....7

3.0 Education Materials....7
- 3.1 Informational Briefs....7
- 3.2 Slide-In Bridge Educational Materials....8

4.0 Communication Methods....9
- 4.1 NHDOT Project Webpage....9
- 4.2 E-Mail....9
- 4.3 Meetings....9
- 4.4 Media Coverage....9
- 4.5 Social Media....9
- 4.6 Town Electronic Newsletter....10
- 4.7 U.S. Postal Service Notice to Abutters....10

1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

1.1 Purpose of Communications Plan

The purpose of this Communications Plan is to describe a wide range of public outreach activities that will be implemented as part of the Ossipee Bridge Replacement and Roadway Rehabilitation Project (State Project No. 14749). This New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) Communication Plan will:

- Provide contact information for the NHDOT Project Team;
- List project stakeholders;
- Explain the NHDOT Project Development Process;
- List anticipated communication products and methods that will be developed to inform the stakeholders and the public-at-large; and
- Communicate upcoming meeting dates and overall project schedule.

This Plan will be updated periodically to reflect updates to the schedule and other items that change over the course of this multi-year project. This Plan will not be considered a completed document until the end of the design process.

1.2 Project Background

New Hampshire (NH) Route 16 is a vital transportation link in northern New Hampshire. NH Route 16 provides access to the White Mountains and northern portions of the state for all residents as well as a robust tourist industry from outside of the state that occurs throughout the year. The project proposes to rehabilitate 3.4 miles of pavement and replace three red-listed bridges. The entire project will occur within the Town of Ossipee. The project begins near the intersection with NH Route 16B (next to Indian Mountain Golf Course) and extends 3.4 miles north.

This project is currently in the “Preliminary Design Phase”, based upon the NHDOT Project Development Process, with an anticipated public hearing in the fall of 2016. Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2018. It is expected that this project will take up to three construction seasons to complete. Therefore, construction is anticipated to end in 2021. The estimated project cost is $18 million.

Additional project information can be found on the NHDOT website. Click the link below to access the Project Specific Information on the NHDOT website.

NHDOT Project Specific Information - State Project 14749

1.3 Major Project Components

The major components of the project are listed below and details of each component follow:

- Replacement of the Lovell River Bridge
- Replacement of the Bearcamp River Bridge
- Replacement of the Bearcamp River Relief Bridge
- Roadway Rehabilitation

Replacement of the Lovell River Bridge (NH Bridge No. 152/268): This bridge has been identified for replacement because it currently restricts heavy loads on Route 16 and the condition of the bridge deck is poor. Also, during high flow events, water overtops the roadway at this location. During construction, a temporary bridge will be installed just to the west of the existing bridge to maintain traffic while the replacement bridge is constructed on the same alignment. Refer to photograph below and click the following link for an aerial view of the conceptual design plan. *Lovell River Bridge*

View of Lovell River Bridge (east side) proposed for replacement.

Replacement of the Bearcamp River Bridge (NH Bridge No. 137/297): The Bearcamp River Bridge will be replaced due to the poor condition of its deck, superstructure and substructure. A technique known as "Slide-In Bridge Construction" will be used to expedite replacement of this bridge and to minimize traffic impacts. This technique will require the closure of Route 16 at this location for one weekend. The closure will be planned to occur during off peak travel times. The official, signed detour will utilize State roads; however, all local roads (including Newman Drew Road) will remain open to traffic. Refer to the photograph below.

View of Bearcamp River Bridge proposed for replacement.

Bearcamp River Relief Bridge (NH Bridge No. 137/299): The Bearcamp River Bridge will be replaced due to the poor condition of its deck, superstructure and substructure. This bridge will also be replaced by using "Slide-In Bridge Construction" to expedite replacement of this bridge and to minimize traffic impacts. As with the Bearcamp River Bridge, a closure of Route 16 will be required at this location for one weekend. The closure will be planned to occur during off peak travel times. The official, signed detour will utilize State roads. However, all local roads (including Newman Drew Road) will remain open to traffic. Refer to the photograph below.

View of Bearcamp River Relief Bridge proposed for replacement.

Click the following link for an aerial view of the conceptual design plan. *Bearcamp Bridges*

Click the following link for a video of the "Slide In Bridge Construction" method used for a bridge replacement in Oregon. *Slide In Bridge Construction Project Example - video*

Roadway Rehabilitation (3.4 miles): Approximately 3.4 miles of roadway resurfacing will occur along Route 16. The roadway rehabilitation will begin near the Lovell River Bridge and extend north approximately 3.4 miles and end near the Chocorua River Bridge in West Ossipee. Roadway work will include the resurfacing of existing pavement, installation of new pavement, repair or replacement of drainage structures, and guardrail upgrades. Refer to the photograph below.

General view of a portion of Route 16 that will undergo pavement rehabilitation.

1.4 Project Team and Stakeholders

The project objectives will be achieved through collaboration with several key groups, organizations, professionals and private citizens. The project will be led by the NHDOT. The NHDOT has retained a consultant, McFarland-Johnson, Inc, to assist in certain tasks to complete the project.

The point of contact for all inquiries is the NHDOT Project Manager, Victoria Chase. The contact information for Ms. Chase is listed below in the following table along with the NHDOT project team.

NHDOT Team			
Contact	**Role**	**Telephone**	**E-Mail**
Victoria Chase, P.E.	Project Manager	271-2171	vchase@dot.state.nh.us
Michael Dugas, P.E.	Project Engineer	271-2171	mdugas@dot.state.nh.us
Jason Tremblay, P.E.	Bridge Engineer	271-2731	jtremblay@dot.state.nh.us
Sally Gunn, P.E.	Highway Engineer	271-2171	sgunn@dot.state.nh.us
Rebecca Martin	Environmental Manager	271-3226	rmartin@dot.state.nh.us

The following table lists the members of the consultant team from McFarland Johnson, Inc., that have been retained to assist NHDOT in certain elements of the project.

Consultant Team			
Contact	Role	Telephone	E-Mail
Christine Perron	Environmental Project Manager	225-2978	cperron@mjinc.com
Jennifer Zorn	Public Outreach Manager	225-2978	jzorn@mjinc.com

Stakeholder participants have been identified by the NHDOT and as of the date of this Communications Plan consist of the following:

Stakeholders - General			
Affiliation	Contact	Telephone	E-Mail
Ossipee Town Administrator	Ellen White	539-4181	NA
Ossipee Selectman	Richard Morgan		
	Franklin Riley		
	Robert Freeman		
Ossipee Police	Ellen White / Chief James Eldridge		
Ossipee Fire & Rescue Services	Ellen White / Chief Michael Brownell		
Ossipee Officials	Ellen White		
Ossipee Boards	Ellen White		
Greater Ossipee Chamber of Commerce	Linda Tucker, President	(508) 208-1713	info@ossipeevalley.org

Stakeholders - Business			
Affiliation	Contact	Telephone	E-Mail
Greater Ossipee Chamber of Commerce	Linda Tucker, President	(508) 208-1713	info@ossipeevalley.org
Pizza Barn	Don Meader	NA	NA
Green Mountain Conservation Group	Corey Lane,	NA	NA
Ski Works	John and Shelly Paven	NA	NA

2.0 PROJECT PROCESS

2.1 NHDOT Project Development Process

The project is following the standard NHDOT project development process. The project is now in the Preliminary Design phase, during which an alternatives analysis was conducted and a preferred alternative was identified. Environmental documentation will now be prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Preliminary Design will be complete when the preferred alternative is presented at a formal Public Hearing and the NEPA Document is approved by FHWA. Both of these actions are planned to occur in the fall of 2016.

The next phase of the project will be Final Design, during which final engineering plans will be developed, right-of-way/easements will be acquired as needed, necessary permits will be acquired and construction contract documents will be prepared. Final Design is complete when the project is advertised for construction bids and is awarded to a contractor. The start of construction is planned for late 2018.

2.2 Project Meetings

The NHDOT will host a series of meetings with various stakeholder groups as well as hold a formal Public Hearing. The overall purpose of these meetings will include:

- Introducing the project and gathering input;
- Describing the preferred alternative and proposed construction methodology; and
- Providing the overall project timeline.

In addition, the purpose of these meetings is to disseminate information within the local community to provide adequate lead time for businesses to adjust their marketing practices to accommodate the construction period and the two proposed weekend road closures.

The meetings will consist of the following:

- NHDOT Public Informational Meeting (PIM) or Open House;
- NHDOT Public Hearing;
- Stakeholder Meetings

The status of these meetings is detailed below, including those that have recently occurred. Meeting minutes and notes are available on the project website.

Public Meetings		
Entity	Location	Date / Subject of Meeting
Public Officials/Public Informational Meeting	Ossipee Town Hall	Completed January 15, 2013. Inform town officials and general public on the project status.
Ossipee Selectmen	Ossipee Town Hall	Completed May 16, 2016. Inform town officials and general public on the project status.
Public Information Meeting/Open House	Ossipee Town Hall	Completed July 19, 2016. Inform the general public on the project status, design phase and schedule.
Stakeholder Meeting	To be determined (TBD)	TBD
Stakeholder Meeting	TBD	TBD
Public Hearing	TBD	TBD

The input received by the project team during and after the July 19, 2016 Public Information Meeting/Open House was compiled. Click the following link to review the public comments received. *Here's What We Heard*

2.3 Project Schedule

The schedule is approximate and subject to change. The Stakeholder meeting dates are general timeframes.

Fall 2016	**Public Hearing (to be held in Ossipee)**
Fall 2016 through 2017	**Stakeholder Meetings**
2017 through 2018	**Regulatory Agency Permitting** **Right of Way Acquisitions**
Late 2018 through mid-2021	**Construction**

Click here to Visit Project Website

3.0 EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

3.1 Informational Briefs

A key method used to inform the public and local stakeholders is the creation of Informational Briefs that can be used and disseminated through various means and methods. As part of the overall Communications Plan, a series of Informational Briefs will be developed and used throughout the project, to inform the public and key stakeholders. These Informational Briefs may include the following topics:

- Toolbox for Business Owners
- Innovative Construction Methods (e.g., Slide-In bridge construction)
- Historic Bridge Documentation (and other issues if warranted)

At the July 19, 2016 Open House a flyer was distributed for the purpose of soliciting individuals interested in participating in the project as a consulting party regarding the documentation to be produced as mitigation for the removal of the two historic bridges. The flyer is available by clicking on the following link. *Consult with Us!*

3.2 Slide-In Bridge Educational Materials

Materials will be developed to help promote education and outreach for the "Slide-In Bridge Construction" methodology. This will be the first time this type of construction method will be utilized by NHDOT.
These materials will consist of:

- Short video: A video, approximately three minutes in length will be created for viewing by local stakeholders and the public-at-large showcasing the benefits of the "Slide-In Bridge Construction" methodology for the Bearcamp River and Bearcamp River Relief bridges. The video will be completed as an MP4 file type and will be posted on the project webpage and YouTube for public viewing. A limited number of Compact Disks (CD) of the video will also be available. The video is anticipated to be complete in 2017.

- Web link to an interactive educational webpage: An educational and interactive webpage will be created to showcase the "Slide-In Bridge Construction" methodology for the Bearcamp River and Bearcamp River Relief bridges. The link will be posted on the project webpage. The webpage is anticipated to be complete in 2017.

4.0 COMMUNICATION METHODS

Effective communication is essential to the on-going success of the project. Below is a description of the communication methods that are planned for the project. As the project progresses, public involvement will be assessed periodically to determine if the methods of communication in use are effective or if adjustments are needed.

4.1 NHDOT Project Website

Further details on the project are located on the Project Specific Information section of the NHDOT website. Project materials will be available to the stakeholders and general public. The website includes a description of the project, contact information, relevant links, maps and other visuals, and meeting information. As the project advances additional information will be added to the website.

Click the link below to access the Project Specific Information through the NHDOT website.

NHDOT Project Specific Information – State Project 14749

4.2 E-Mail

The primary method of communication for the project will be e-mail. Individual e-mail addresses for the stakeholders are contained within the project files. Meeting agendas, meeting notes and other pertinent project information will be disseminated to the stakeholders via e-mail.

4.3 Meetings

Stakeholder meetings, Public Informational Meetings and the formal Public Hearing will be used as different avenues to disseminate and discuss pertinent project-related information. A summary of the meetings can be found on the project website.

4.4 Media Coverage

In order to help maximize the distribution of meeting notices for the Public Informational Meetings and Public Hearing, news releases and/or meeting notices will be provided to local and regional newspapers and news agencies. As media coverage is generated, it will be added here.

4.5 Social Media

Social Media has become the prime means for disseminating information to a large cross section of people. The NHDOT has a *Facebook* page and electronic newsletter that will be used to notify and inform a wide range of the community regarding project related information and to notify the public of upcoming meetings.

4.6 Town Electronic Newsletter

Information will be provided to the Ossipee Town Administrator for distribution on the Town electronic newsletter or similar electronic communication used by the Town of Ossipee to communicate with the local officials, members of town boards and committees, and neighboring towns.

4.7 U.S. Postal Service Notices to Abutters

The NHDOT will notice the project abutters through the U.S. Postal Service when Public Informational Meetings and the formal Public Hearing are to occur.