STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE INTER-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION

DATE: December 8, 2023

FROM:	Joshua Brown Wetlands Program Analyst	AT (OFFICE):	Department of Transportation
SUBJECT	Shoreland Application Nashua-Merrimack-Bedford, 13761A		Bureau of Environment
то	Calvin Deissner, NHDES Shoreland Progr New Hampshire Wetlands Bureau 29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95	ram	

Concord, NH 03302-0095

Forwarded herewith is the Shoreland application package prepared by NH DOT Bureau of Highway Design for the subject project. The proposed NHDOT 13761A project is part of the larger Nashua-Merrimack-Bedford, 13761 project that involves widening three (3) segments of the existing two-lane portions of the F.E. Everett Turnpike in Nashua, Merrimack, and Bedford, New Hampshire. The 13761A is the southernmost segment located in Nashua and Merrimack. The project begins just north of the Tinker Road overpass at Exit 8 in Nashua, and continues north for approximately 2.2 miles, ending approximately 400 feet north of the Industrial Drive overpass at Exit 10 in Merrimack. A wetland standard dredge and fill application for this section of the project was submitted to NHDES on December 1, 2023.

This project was reviewed at the Natural Resource Agency Coordination Meeting on May 17, 2023. A copy of the minutes has been included with this application package. A copy of this application and plans can be accessed on the Departments website via the following link: <u>https://www.dot.nh.gov/projects-plans-and-programs/programs/environmental-management-system/project-management-section-0</u>.

Erosion Control Plans contained within this application should be considered the final erosion control plans in accordance with Env-Wt 527.05(a).

The lead people to contact for this project are Wendy Johnson, Bureau of Highway Design (271-3909 or Wendy.A.Johnson@dot.nh.gov) or Andrew O'Sullivan, Wetlands Program Manager, Bureau of Environment (271-3226 or Andrew.O'Sullivan@dot.nh.gov).

A payment voucher has been processed for this application (Voucher #77007) in the amount of \$3,750.

If and when this application meets with the approval of the Bureau, please send the permit directly to Andrew O'Sullivan, Wetlands Program Manager, Bureau of Environment.

JRB; cc: BOE Original Towns of Nashua & Merrimack (4 copies via certified mail)

Karl Benedict, NHDES Kevin Nyhan, BOE (via electronic notification)

S:\Environment\PROJECTS\NASHUA\13761\Wetlands\13761A\Shoreland Application\Application Submission Documents\WETAPP - Coverletter.doc



Nashua-Merrimack-Bedford, 13761A

NHDES Shoreland Permit Application



Prepared By:



F.E. Everett Turnpike Widening Project: Southern Segment

November 2023

New Hampshire Department of Transportation Nashua-Merrimack-Bedford, 13761A F.E. Everett Turnpike Widening Project: Southern Segment NHDES Shoreland Permit Application November 2023

Contents

NHDES SHORELAND PERMIT APPLICATION FORM FIGURE 1 – USGS LOCATION MAP SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION REQUEST WAIVER OF THE MINIMUM STANDARDS FORM PHOTO LOG FIGURE 2 – TAX MAP NHB DATACHECK RESULTS LETTER NHFG COORDINATION

SHORELAND IMPACT PLANS

NHDES Shoreland Permit Application Form





SHORELAND PERMIT APPLICATION Water Division/ Land Resources Management Shoreland Program Check the Status of your Application



RSA/Rule: RSA 483-B, Env-Wq 1400

			File No.:
Administrative	Administrative	Administrative	Check No.:
Only	Only	Only	Amount:
			Initials:

This is an application for a permit to excavate, fill, construct new structures, or remove structures within the protected shoreland as regulated under RSA 483-B.

SECTION 1 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Env-Wq 1406.07)

Provide a concise description of the proposed project: The proposed 13761A project is the southernmost segment of the larger NHDOT Nashua-Merrimack-Bedford 13761 project. The 13761A project involves widening the F.E. Everett Turnpike from two to three travel lanes in both the NB and SB directions, beginning in Nashua, just north of the Tinker Road overpass at Exit 8, continuing north for approximately 2.2 miles, terminating approximately 400 feet north of the Industrial Drive overpass in Merrimack. The proposed project also involves the replacement of the existing bridges that carry the turnpike over Bowers Pond (Pennichuck Brook) and stormwater/drainage improvements. The purpose of the project is to improve the safety and capacity of the F.E. Everett Turnpike.

SECTION 2 - PROJECT LOCATION (Env-Wq 1406.07)

ADDRESS: F.E. Everett Turnpike	TOWN/CITY: Nashua & Merrimack	STATE: NH	ZIP CODE: 03063/54
WATERBODY NAME: Bowers Pond & Harris Pond (Pennichuck Brook)	TAX MAP/ BLOCK/LOT NUMBER : N/A - ROW		N

SECTION 3 - PROPERTY OWNER & DEED INFORMATION (Env-Wq 1406.07)

The legal name of each property owner must be as it appears on the deed of record. If the owner is a trust or a company, then the name of the trust or company should be written as the owner's name.

LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, M.I: New Hampshire Department of Transportation Attn: Wendy Johnson

MAILING ADDRESS: 7 Hazen Drive		Concord	STATE: NH	ZIP CODE: 03302
PHONE: (603) 271-3909	EMAIL (if available): Wendy.A.Johnson@do	ot.nh.gov	
REGISTRY OF DEED COUNTY, E	BOOK NUMBER	, PAGE NUMBER		
SECTION 4 - APPLICANT (DESIRED PERMI If the applicant is a trust or a company, th name. If the applicant is the owner, leave	T HOLDER), IF DIFFE en the name of the blank and check the	RENT THAN OWNER (Er trust or company should e following box: 🔀.	n v-Wq 1406.07 d be written as) the applicant's
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, M.I.				

MAILING ADDRESS:

TOWN/CITY:

STATE:

PHONE:		EMAIL (if available):				
SECTION 5 - CONTRACTOR	IONAL)					
LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, N	1.I: Hoffmann, S	tephen (M	cFarland-Johnso	on, Inc.)		
ADDRESS: 53 Regional Drive			TOWN/CITY:	Concord	STATE: NH	ZIP CODE: 03301
PHONE: (802) 862-9381	I	EMAIL (if av	vailable): shoffn	nann@mjinc.coi	m	
SECTION 6 - CRITERIA (Env-	Wq 1406.07)					
 Please check at least one of the following criteria: This shoreland permit application requires neither a proposal to make the property more nearly conforming nor a request for a waiver of a minimum standard. This shoreland permit application includes a proposal to make the structures and/or the property more nearly conforming in accordance with RSA 483-B:11. This shoreland permit application includes a request for a waiver of the following minimum standard(s): RSA 483- 						
SECTION 7 - RELATED NHDE	S I AND RESOLI	RCFS MAN		ΜΙΤ ΔΡΡΙ ΙΟΔΤΙΟ	Νς Δςςοριατε	
PROJECT (Env-Wq 1406.14)						
Please indicate if any of the	following perm	its are requ	uired and, if req	uired, the status	s of the applica	tion.
Permit Type	Permit Requ	ired	File Number	Permit Ap	plication Statu	S
Alteration of Terrain Permit per RSA 485-A:17	🗌 YES 🖢	∐ NO	N/A		OVED 🗌 PEN	DING 🗌 DENIED
Individual Sewerage Disposal per RSA 485-A:29	🗌 YES	NO 🛛	NO N/A APPROVED PENDING DENIED			
Subdivision Approval per RSA 485-A:29	YES NO N/A APPROVED PENDING DENIED			DING 🗌 DENIED		
Wetlands Permit per RSA 482-A	YES	NO	PENDING	APPR	OVED 🔀 PEN	DING 🗌 DENIED
SECTION 8 - REFERENCE LIN	IE ELEVATION (Env-Wq 14	06.07)			
Required for projects located on the protected shoreland of lakes or ponds. The reference line elevations for most lakes, ponds, and artificial impoundments greater than 10 acres in size are listed in the Consolidated List of Waterbodies Subject to the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. Please see RSA 483-B:4, XVII for the definition of reference line.						
REFERENCE LINE ELEVATION: 175 & 166 feet above sea level.						
SECTION 9 - APPLICATION FEE & SUBMITTAL (RSA 483-B:5-b, I(b); RSA 483-B:5-b, X)						
A non-refundable permit application fee of \$200 plus \$0.20 per total square feet of impact for restoration of water quality improvement projects, or \$400 plus \$0.20 per total square feet of impact for all other projects is required at the time the application is submitted. Applications for projects solely funded by municipal, county, state, or federal entities shall incur a permitting fee no greater than \$3,750.						
Please mail or hand deliver this application and all required attachments to the NHDES Wetlands Bureau, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095. Missing information will delay processing your application and may result in denial of a shoreland permit application. Please make checks payable to the Treasurer, State of NH .						

NHDES-W-06-037

SECTION 1	SECTION 10 - CALCULATING TOTAL IMPACT AREA/ PERMIT APPLICATION FEE (RSA 483-B:5-b, I(b); RSA 483-B:5-b, X)			
Total impact area is calculated by determining the sum of all areas disturbed by regrading, excavating, filling, construction, or structure removal. Impacts often include, but are not limited to: constructing new driveways, constructing new structures, areas disturbed when installing septic systems and foundations, creating temporary access roads to drill a new well, and regrading associated with landscaping activities.				
TOTAL ARE	A IMPACTED WITHIN THE PROTECTED SHO	RELAND = 258,323	(A) square fee	t
• For res	toration of water quality improvement pro-	ojects:		
M	ultiply line (A) by \$0.20 and add \$200. [(A) >	< \$0.20 + \$200] = \$	N/A Pe	ermit fee ¹
For all	other projects:			
M	ultiply line (A) by \$0.20 and add \$400. [(A) =	× \$0.20 + \$400] = \$ \$3,	750 (483-B:5-B	X.) Permit fee ¹
SECTION 1	1 - REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS (Env-Wq 14	06.08; Env-Wq 1406.10	D(a))	
By initialin	g within the blank before each of the follow	ving statements, and sig	ning below, γοι	are certifying that:
Initials: WAY	The information provided is true, complet	e, and not misleading to	o the knowledge	e and belief of the signer.
 I understand that: Any permit or waiver granted based on false, incomplete, or misleading information shall be subject to revocation. I am subject to the applicable penalties in RSA 641, Falsification in Official Matters. And Obtaining a shoreland permit shall not exempt the work proposed from other state, local, or federal approvals. 				
Initials: WAY	Initials:I have notified the governing body of the municipality or municipalities in which the property is located by certified mail, in accordance with Env-Wq 1406.13.			
Initials: N/A	tials: I/A I have notified all abutters ² of the proposed impacts via certified mail, in accordance with Env-Wq 1406.13.			
Initials: WAY This project is within ¼ mile of a designated river and I have notified the Local River Management Advisory Committee (LAC) by providing the LAC with a copy of the complete application, including all supporting materials, via certified mail, in accordance with Env-Wq 1406.13. This project is not within ¼ mile of a designated river.				
Initials: WAJ	Initials: For any project proposing that the impervious area be at least 15% but not more than 20% within the protected shoreland, I certify that the impervious area is not more than 20%. \square N/A			
SECTION 12 - REQUIRED SIGNATURES (Env-Wq 1406.08)				
Both the p	roperty owner and applicant must sign the	application.		DATE
Wen	dy A. Johnson	WENDY JOHNSON (NH	DOT)	12/06/23
SIGNATUR	(APPLICANT, IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER):	PRINT NAME LEGIBLY:		DATE:

¹ Applications for projects solely funded by municipal, county, state, or federal entities shall incur a permitting fee no greater than \$3,750.

² "Abutter" means any person who owns property that is immediately contiguous to the property on which the proposed work will take place, or who owns flowage rights on such property. The term does not include those properties separated by a public road or more than ¼ mile from the limits of the proposed work. If contiguous properties are owned by the person who is proposing the work, then the term includes the person owning the next contiguous property, subject to the ¼ mile limitation.

shoreland@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-2147 NHDES Shoreland Program, 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095 <u>http://www.des.nh.gov</u>

SHORELAND APPLICATION WORKSHEET

This worksheet *must* be submitted to the NHDES Wetlands Bureau with every Shoreland Permit Application. A separate shoreland application worksheet must be submitted for each individual lot of record where impacts are proposed.

For the purposes of this worksheet, "**pre-construction**" impervious surface area³ means all human made impervious surfaces⁴ currently present within the protected shoreland of a lot, whether to be removed or to remain after the project is completed. "**Post-construction**" impervious area means all impervious surfaces that will exist within the protected shoreland of a lot upon completion of the project, including both new and any remaining pre-construction impervious surfaces. All answers shall be given in square feet.

CALCULATING THE IMPERVIOUS AREA OF A LOT WITHIN 250 FEET OF THE REFERENCE LINE (Env-Wq 1406.12)					
	STRUCTURE DESCRIPTION	PRE-CONSTRUCTION IMPERVIOUS AREAS	POST IMP	-CONSTRUCTION ERVIOUS AREAS	
PRIMARY STRUCTURE(S) House and all attached decks and porches.	Pavement	111,258 FT ²		176,024 FT ²	
ACCESSORY STRUCTURES		FT ²		FT ²	
excluding lawn furniture, well heads and fences. Common		FT ²		FT ²	
accessory structures include, but are not limited to:		FT ²		FT ²	
driveways, walkways, patios, and sheds.		FT ²		FT ²	
		FT ²		FT ²	
		FT ²		FT ²	
	TOTAL:	(A) 111,258 FT ²	(B)	176,024 FT ²	
Area of the lot located within 250 feet of reference line:				574,363 FT ²	
Percentage of lot covered by pre-construction impervious area within 250 feet of the reference line: [divide (A) by (C) x 100]				19.4 %	
Percentage of lot to be covered by post-construction impervious area within 250 feet of the reference line upon completion of the project: [divide (B) by (C) x 100]				30.6 %	

Calculating the Impervious Area of a Lot

³ "Impervious surface area" as defined in Env-Wq 1402.13 means, for purposes of the impervious surface limitation specified in RSA 483-B:9, V(g), the sum total of the footprint of each impervious surface that is located within the protected shoreland.

⁴ "Impervious Surface" as defined in RSA 483-B:4, VII-b means any modified surface that cannot effectively absorb or infiltrate water. Examples of impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, roofs, and unless designed to effectively absorb or infiltrate water, decks, patios, and paved, gravel, or crushed stone driveways, parking areas, and walkways.

shoreland@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-2147 NHDES Shoreland Program, 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095 <u>http://www.des.nh.gov</u>

Stormwater Management Requirements

THE IMPERVIOUS AREA THRESHOLDS (RSA 483-B:9, V(g))

A net decrease or no net increase in impervious area is proposed (If **line E** is less than or equal to **line D**).

The percentage of post-construction impervious area (line E) is less than or equal to 20%.

This project **does not** require a stormwater management plan and **does not** require a plan demonstrating that each waterfront buffer grid segment at least meets the minimum required tree and sapling point score.

A net increase in impervious area is proposed and the percentage of post-construction impervious area (line E) is greater than 20%, but less than 30%.

This project **requires** a stormwater management but, **does not** require a plan demonstrating that each waterfront buffer grid segment at least meets the minimum required tree and sapling point score.

See details on the Application Checklist

A net increase in impervious area is proposed and the percentage of post-construction impervious area (line E) is greater than 30%.

This project **requires** a stormwater management plan designed and certified by a professional engineer **and requires** plans demonstrating that each waterfront buffer grid segment meets at least the minimum required tree and sapling point score.

See details on the Application Checklist

Natural Woodland Area Requirement

DETERMINING THE AREA TO REMAIN AS NATURAL WOODLAND				
Total area of the lot between 50 feet and 150 feet of the reference line within which the vegetation currently exists as natural woodland ⁵ (see definition below).	(F)	69,170 FT ²		
Total area of the lot between 50 feet and 150 feet from the reference line.	(G)	211,397 FT ²		
At least 25% of area (G) must remain in as natural woodland. [0.25 x G]	(H)	52,849 FT ²		
Place the lesser of area (F) and calculation (H) on this line. In order to remain compliant with the natural woodland area requirement , this is the minimum area that must remain as natural woodland between 50 feet and 150 feet from the reference line. This area must be represented on all plans and this area, exclusive of existing lawn, must remain in an unaltered state ⁶ .	(I)	52,849 FT ²		
Name of person who prepared this worksheet: Stephen Hoffmann	•			
Name and date of the plan this worksheet is based upon: Shoreland Impact Plans, November 17, 2023				

⁵ "Natural Woodland" means a forested area consisting of various species of trees, saplings, shrubs, and ground covers in any combination and at any stage of growth (483-B:4, XI).

⁶ "Unaltered State" means native vegetation allowed to grow without cutting, limbing, trimming, pruning, mowing, or other similar activities except as needed for renewal or to maintain or improve plant health (483-B:4, XXIV-b).

shoreland@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-2147 NHDES Shoreland Program, 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095 <u>http://www.des.nh.gov</u> Figure 1 – USGS Location Map





M:/18589.00 NHDOT Southern FEET Design/Draw/GIS/13761A/Permitting Figures/Wetlands/Figure 1 - USGS Location Map 13761A.mxd

Supplemental Project Description



SHORELAND PERMIT APPLICATION

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NASHUA-MERRIMACK-BEDFORD F.E. EVERETT TURNPIKE WIDENING PROJECT 13761A – SOUTHERN SEGMENT NASHUA & MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE NOVEMBER 2023

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE



SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE - 1

Table of Contents

PAGE

Introduction3
Purpose & Need3
Project Description4
Existing Conditions4
Wetlands4
Surface Waters
Bowers Pond6
Merrimack River6
Protected Shorelands7
Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species / Fish and Wildlife Habitat7
Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act9
Lot9
Reference Lines
Harris Pond10
Bowers Pond10
Shoreland Impacts
Waterfront Buffer11
Natural Woodland Buffer11
Protected Shoreland12
Impervious Surfaces12
Natural Woodland Buffer Area Requirements13
Request Waiver of the Minimum Standards13
Section 113
Section 215
Section 316



Introduction

The proposed NHDOT 13761A project is part of the larger Nashua-Merrimack-Bedford 13761 project that involves widening three (3) segments of the existing two-lane portions of the F.E. Everett Turnpike (F.E.E.T.) in Nashua, Merrimack, and Bedford, New Hampshire. The 13761 project has been divided into five (5) separate construction contracts. Based on prior discussions with NHDES and the US Army Corps of Engineers, each construction contract will be permitted separately, and cumulative impacts will be tracked for the entire project. This NHDES Shoreland Permit application is for the 13761A contract, which includes the southernmost segment located in the City of Nashua and the Town of Merrimack. The project begins just north of the Tinker Road overpass at Exit 8 in Nashua, and continues north for approximately 2.2 miles, ending approximately 400 feet north of the Industrial Drive overpass at Exit 10 in Merrimack.



Purpose & Need

The purpose of the F.E.E.T. Widening Project is to improve transportation safety and efficiency associated with turnpike congestion in Nashua, Merrimack, and Bedford for all users of the turnpike while being sensitive to the needs of local communities, residents, and natural and cultural resources.

The F.E.E.T. is a principal north-south arterial highway within the State of New Hampshire and is part of the New Hampshire Turnpike System. The F.E.E.T. begins at the New Hampshire-Massachusetts State Line, where it is a continuation of US Route 3, and continues north 39.5 miles to Exit 14 in Concord, NH. It includes portions of Interstates 93 and 293 and provides a vital link for north-south travel. The F.E.E.T. carries a mix of traffic including trucks, cars, and buses, as well as commercial traffic vital to the region's economy. The F.E.E.T. corridor serves as a regional commuting route for residents of New Hampshire and



Massachusetts as well as an important local route for the communities of Nashua, Merrimack, Bedford, and other surrounding municipalities. It also serves as an important link for New England-wide travel to population centers such as Nashua, Manchester, and Concord, as well as to tourist destinations such as the New Hampshire Lakes Region, White Mountains, and ski areas. As one of the main arterials in the New Hampshire highway system, it is important to maintain the safety and mobility of people, goods, and services through this corridor.

Project Description

The proposed 13761A project is primarily a roadway widening project involving the construction of an additional travel lane in both the northbound and southbound directions of the F.E.E.T. in Nashua and Merrimack, New Hampshire.

The proposed project also includes the complete replacement of existing bridges 107/042 and 106/042 carrying the northbound and southbound barrels of the F.E.E.T. (respectively) over Bowers Pond (Pennichuck Brook). The two existing 87' single span bridges will be replaced with a 100' single span bridge over Pennichuck Brook. The proposed bridge abutments will be constructed behind the existing abutments, and the existing abutments and piles will be removed to a minimum depth of one foot below grade. The proposed bridge structure will also provide improvements to terrestrial wildlife passage at the crossing through the inclusion of two, two-foot-wide wildlife shelves in front of the northern and southem abutments. The vegetated 2:1 slopes along the cause ways will be provided to facilitate wildlife passage. The design team confirmed with NHFG that the vegetated 2:1 slope would be passable for turtles and other wildlife species.

The project also includes the construction of stormwater treatment areas and drainage upgrades and improvements to meet MS4 and AOT requirements.

In addition to the replacement of the existing bridges over Bowers Pond, portions of the proposed project are located with the Protected Shoreland (within 250 feet of the Reference Line) of Harris Pond. Harris Pond is also part of Pennichuck Brook and is the impoundment below Bowers Pond and Bowers Dam.

The project is scheduled to be advertised in January 2024, with construction anticipated to commence in spring/summer 2024.

Existing Conditions

The following sections provide a description of the existing natural and environmental resources identified in the vicinity of the proposed 13761A project.

Wetlands

The southern segment (13761A) of the F.E.E.T. Widening Project is in Nashua and Merrimack, New Hampshire. Wetlands and surface waters in the project area were originally delineated by McFarland-



Johnson, Inc. (MJ) in 2016-2017 and wetland boundaries were confirmed by an additional field review in 2022. The majority of the wetlands in the vicinity of the project consist of palustrine forested wetlands.

The following provides a summary of the delineated wetlands identified in the vicinity of the 13761A project:

W-1: Wetland W-1 is a small palustrine scrub-shrub (PSS1E) depression location adjacent to W-2. This area is located on the east side of the F.E. Everett Turnpike, north of the Tinker Road overpass. Dominant vegetation found in this wetland included red maple and white pine in the tree stratum; glossy buckthom in the sapling/shrub stratum; and cinnamon fern, broad-leaf cattail, poison ivy, and purple loosestrife in the herbaceous stratum. Indicators of hydrology included saturation within 12 inches of the surface.

W-2: Wetland W-2 consists of a finger of the Pennichuck Brook impoundment (L1UBHh), constructed stormwater treatment areas, and a ditch/swale (PEM1Ed) along the toe-of-slope of the F.E. Everett Turnpike. These areas are all hydrologically connected, but primarily consist of constructed treatment areas designed to capture and convey stormwater runoff. Dominant vegetation occurring in this wetland included glossy buckthorn and willows along the edges of the open water areas, and soft rush, purple loosestrife, American bur-reed, and tussock sedge in the herbaceous layer. Hydrology indicators included surface water and saturation.

W-3: Wetland W-3 is a palustrine forested (PFO1E) wetland depression located on the west side of the F.E. Everett Turnpike. This wetland extends outside the study area and appears to be hydrologically connected to Pennichuck Brook according to NWI wetland mapping. This wetland is also located within the 100-year floodplain of Pennichuck Brook. Dominant vegetation includes red maple and white pine in the tree stratum. The herbaceous layer was sparse and consisted of marsh fern and small-spiked fake nettle. Soils were saturated. Wetland W-3 is located within the mapped floodplain and appears to be contiguous with Pennichuck Brook based on existing wetland and floodplain mapping. Therefore, W-3 would be considered a floodplain wetland adjacent to a Tier 3 watercourse, a Priority Resource Area (PRA) type under the NHDES Wetland Rules.

W-4: Wetland W-4 is a palustrine forested (PFO1E) fringe wetland along the Pennichuck Brook impoundment located in the southwest quadrant of the bridge crossing. Dominant vegetation in this wetland included red maple and American elm in the tree stratum; winterberry and maleberry in the sapling/shrub stratum; and marsh fern, sensitive fern, awl-fruited sedge, bladder sedge, and common arrowhead in the herbaceous stratum. Indicators of hydrology included saturation at a depth of approximately 8 inches. Soils were sandy loams with a layer of mucky mineral soil at the surface. These soils met the hydric soil indicator A11: Depleted Below Dark Surface. Wetland W-4 is also a PRA located within the floodplain of Pennichuck Brook. In Nashua, the Pennichuck Brook surface water and adjacent wetlands have been designated Prime Wetlands. Therefore, W-4 is also a Prime Wetland, another PRA type.

W-5: Wetland W-5 is a palustrine forested (PFO1E) fringe wetland along the Pennichuck Brook impoundment located in the northwest quadrant of the bridge crossing. Dominant vegetation in this wetland included red maple, white pine, and green ash in the tree stratum; red oak in the sapling/shrub stratum; and cinnamon fern, hay-scented fern, and New York fern in the herbaceous stratum. This wetland



area is located within the 100-year floodplain of Pennichuck Brook and therefore, the wetland is considered a PRA. Soils were silty loams with a depleted matrix.

W-6: Wetland W-6 is a palustrine forested (PFO1E) fringe wetland along the Pennichuck Brook impoundment located in the northeast quadrant of the bridge crossing. Dominant vegetation in this wetland included red maple and white pine in the tree stratum; red maple in the sapling/shrub stratum; and cinnamon fern in the herbaceous stratum. This wetland area is also located within the 100-year floodplain of Pennichuck Brook, making this wetland a PRA.

W-7: Wetland W-7 is a small palustrine forested (PFO1E) wetland located on the west side of the F.E. Everett Turnpike near the northern terminus of the 13761A project. This area is a small ditch that drains into a culvert flowing east underneath the F.E. Everett Turnpike (the outlet was not delineated because it is located outside of the proposed project area). The wetland is separated from a small pond to the west by a berm and is hydrologically connected via a culvert through the berm. Dominant vegetation in this wetland included red maple and gray birch in the tree stratum; speckled alder in the sapling/shrub stratum; and spotted touch-me-not, small-spike false nettle, and several species of sedges in the herbaceous stratum. Indicators of hydrology included saturation and surface water. The soils were mucky sandy loams underlain by sand and met hydric soil indicator A4: Hydrogen Sulfide Odor.

Surface Waters

Bowers Pond

Bowers Pond or Pennichuck Brook is the most prominent surface water in the project area. At the location of the F.E.E.T. crossing (Bridge No.'s 107/042 and 106/042) Pennichuck Brook is an impoundment, also known as Bowers Pond, formed by a series of dams located downstream (east) of the crossing. Pennichuck Water Works owns and operates the existing dams, reservoirs, and surrounding lands. Pennichuck Brook is also a drinking water supply for the City of Nashua and surrounding municipalities. The water supply intake is located east of the project area, below a series of two dams, at the Supply Pond. Coordination with Pennichuck Water Works regarding the proposed project, impacts, stormwater treatment, and protection of water quality has been completed by VHB. Pennichuck Brook is not a Class A surface water or an Outstanding Resource Water. Based on coordination with New Hampshire Fish and Game (NHFG) Pennichuck Brook supports a warm water fishery. At the location of the F.E.E.T. crossing, Pennichuck Brook has a total watershed size of 23.9 square miles. Based on prior coordination with NHDES the crossing is considered a Tier 3 stream crossing based on the watershed size. FEMA mapped 100-year floodplain and regulatory floodway associated with Pennichuck Brook are also located within the 13761A project area.

Merrimack River

The Merrimack River is located east of the F.E.E.T. and will not be impacted by the proposed project. The segment of the Merrimack River east of the project is a part of the Lower Merrimack River, a New Hampshire Designated River. However, the proposed project is located outside the Designated River Corridor and no additional coordination with the Local River Management Advisory Committee is required.



Protected Shorelands

In New Hampshire, The Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (RSA 483-B, SWQPA) regulates lands within 250 feet of all public waters, known as the Protected Shoreland. As defined in RSA 483-B:4 XVI. Public waters include:

- (a) All lakes, ponds, and artificial impoundments greater than 10 acres in size. Coastal waters, being all waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, including the Great Bay Estuary and the associated tidal rivers;
- (b) Coastal waters, being all waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, including the Great Bay Estuary and the associated tidal rivers; and
- (c) Rivers, meaning all year-round flowing waters of fourth order or higher and all rivers and river segments designated as protected under RSA 483:15. Stream order shall be determined using the New Hampshire hydrography dataset archived by the geographically referenced analysis and information transfer system (GRANIT) at the complex systems research center of the university of New Hampshire, and developed by GRANIT in collaboration with the department of environmental services. A listing of the streams of fourth order and higher shall be prepared and periodically updated by the GRANIT at the complex systems research center of the university of New Hampshire and delivered to the commissioner 30 days after the effective date of this subparagraph.

Bowers Pond is approximately 87 acres in size and is included on the NHDES Consolidated List of Waterbodies Subject to RSA 483-B, The Shoreland Water Quality Protections Act (SWQPA). Therefore, the portions of the project located within the Protected Shoreland of Pennichuck Brook (lands within 250 feet of the reference line, or ordinary high water) are subject to jurisdiction under the SWQPA. The surface elevation, or Reference Line of Bowers Pond has been identified on the NHDES Consolidated List as 175 feet above sea level. Pursuant to RSA 483-B:4XVII (a), "Reference Line means: For all lakes, ponds, and artificial impoundments greater than 10 acres in size, the surface elevation as listed in the Consolidated List of Water Bodies subject to the shoreland water quality protection act as maintained by the department."

Harris Pond is the next impoundment of Pennichuck Brook located downstream from Bowers Pond and below the Bowers Dam. Harris Pond is approximately 72 acres in size and is also included on the NHDES Consolidated List. According to the List, the Reference Line elevation for Harris Pond is 166 feet above sea level. Portions of the southern portion of the 13761A project are located within 250 feet of the Reference Line of Harris Pond.

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species / Fish and Wildlife Habitat

The US Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Tool Official Species List indicated that the proposed project area is within the documented range of the northern long-eared bat (NLEB). The proposed project is anticipated to require approximately 11.2 acres of tree clearing. An acoustic survey for the 13761A project was conducted between July 21 through July 28, 2021. Four detectors were deployed for a total of seven nights, three of which experienced unsuitable weather



conditions as defined by the USFWS Range-Wide Indiana Bat & Northern Long Eared Bat Summer Survey Guidelines (Survey Guidelines). Based on an analysis of the data collected during all seven nights, no acoustic files were manually identified as NLEB at any detector site. An inspection of both bridges (107/042 and 106/042) was completed on May 23, 2023, for evidence of use by bats and the Bridge/Structure Bat Assessment Form was completed. No evidence of bats (visual, audible, odor, staining, or guano) was observed. Since NLEB was not detected during the acoustic survey, it seems unlikely that NLEB would be present within the project area during the active season when tree clearing is proposed. Therefore, the project is unlikely to result in adverse effects on the NLEB. The NHDOT would implement the following measures to further minimize and avoid effects to NLEB:

- 1) The project would only clear the trees necessary to achieve project objectives and would mark all trees prior to clearing; and
- 2) The contractor would report any dead or sick bats.

Based on the information above, NHDOT is making a not likely to adversely affect determination on behalf of the Army Corps (the lead federal agency) for NLEB. The NH Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) reviewed the project area and identified documented records of the following species in the vicinity of the proposed project area (NHB23-0523):

- Bird-Foot Violet
- Clasping Milkweed
- Long-Spined Sandbur
- Blanding's Turtle
- Eastern Hognose Snake
- Northern Black Racer

A survey for bird's foot violet and clasping milkweed was completed by MJ in September 2021. Based on coordination with NHB, surveys were not required for the long-spined sandbur. Three populations of bird-foot violet were documented in the Contract A project area in Nashua. No clasping milkweed was identified in the survey area. Impacts to the existing bird's foot violet population on the west side of the turnpike in Nashua (Population 3) could not be avoided due to the close proximity of the existing plants to the existing edge of pavement. However, impacts to Populations 1 and 2 have been avoided. Consultation with the NHB resulted in the recommendation of transplanting the impacted population on the west side of the turnpike in between Populations 1 and 2 on the east side of the turnpike. A transplanting protocol will be prepared based on NHB's recommendations, which will be included in the construction contract.

According to NHFG there are no fisheries concerns with Pennichuck Brook. This surface water is assumed to contain a warmwater fish species assemblage. In addition, aquatic organism and fish passage is blocked by a series of dams upstream and downstream from the project area. No time of year restrictions on inwater work are proposed.



Coordination with NHFG has occurred, and based on NHFG's input and recommendations, the following measures will be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife species:

- All manufactured erosion and sediment control products, with the exception of turf reinforcement mats, utilized for, but not limited to, slope protection, runoff diversion, slope interruption, perimeter control, inlet protection, check dams, and sediment traps shall not contain plastic, or multifilament or monofilament polypropylene netting or mesh with an opening size of greater than 1/8 inches.
- All observations of threatened or endangered species on the project site shall be reported to the NHFG nongame and endangered wildlife environmental review program by phone at 603-271-2461 and by email at NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov, with the email subject line containing the NHB DataCheck tool results letter assigned number, the project name, and the term Wildlife Species Observation.
- Photographs of the observed species and nearby elements of habitat or areas of land disturbance shall be provided to NHFG in digital format at the above email address for verification, as feasible.
- In the event a threatened or endangered species is observed on the project site during the term of the permit, the species shall not be disturbed, handled, or harmed in any way prior to consultation with NHFG and implementation of corrective actions recommended by NHFG.
- Site operators shall be allowed to relocate wildlife encountered if discovered within the active work zone if in direct harm from project activities. Wildlife shall be relocated in close proximity to the capture location but outside of the work zone and in the direction the individual was heading. NHFG shall be contacted immediately if this action occurs.
- NHFG, including its employees and authorized agents, shall have access to the property during the term of the permit.

Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act

Lot

The term "Lot of Record" is defined in RSA 483-B:4 VIII. as, "...a legally created parcel, the plat or description of which has been recorded at the registry of deeds for the county in which it is located."

For the purpose of this Shoreland Permit application, the "Lot of Record" or "Lot" is assumed to be the total existing state-owned right-of-way (ROW) and any permanent easements located within 250 feet of the Reference Line of Bowers Pond and Harris Pond. The total area of the Lot is 574,363 SF or approximately 13.19 acres. The majority of the "Lot" is located within the existing ROW. Permanent easements are required in the northeast and southeast bridge quadrants, and near the southern limits of



the project for the construction of the proposed stormwater treatment areas. All necessary easements and property acquisitions will be obtained by the NHDOT Bureau of Right-of-Way prior to the start of construction. Easements will be required within the Pennichuck Water Works properties adjacent to Pennichuck Brook. Coordination with Pennichuck Brook is ongoing and no concerns with securing the necessary easements are anticipated.

Reference Lines

Harris Pond

According to the NHDES Consolidated List of Waterbodies, the Reference Line for Harris Pond is 166 feet above sea level. However, due to the distance of Harris Pond from the proposed 13761A project area bathymetric and topographic survey did not extend all the way to Harris Pond. Therefore, LiDAR derived two-foot contours were brought in to approximate the Reference Line location. The two-foot contours used are the most accurate and readily available data. However, the lowest elevation of the LiDAR contours in the vicinity of Harris Pond was 168 feet, suggesting that the water surface elevation at the time of the LiDAR survey was consistent with the 168-foot contour. Therefore, the 168-foot contour was used as the Reference Line elevation for the purpose of the Shoreland Impact Plans and impact areas included with this permit application. Shoreland buffer distances were based on this Reference Line.

Bowers Pond

According to the NHDES Consolidated List of Waterbodies, the Reference Line for Bowers Pond is 175 feet above sea level. A combination of topographic and bathymetric survey data, as well as LiDAR derived elevations were used to identify the 175-foot Reference Line elevation on the Shoreland Impact Plans included with this permit application.

Shoreland Impacts

The Protected Shoreland is divided into three zones:

- Waterfront Buffer (WB) The Waterfront Buffer is the area of the Protected Shoreland located within 50 feet of the Reference Line (measured horizontally).
- Woodland Buffer (NWB) The Woodland Buffer, or Natural Woodland Buffer is located within 150 feet of the reference line (measured horizontally) and includes the Waterfront Buffer.
- Protected Shoreland (PS) The Protected Shoreland includes the area within 250 feet of the reference line (measured horizontally) and includes the Waterfront Buffer and Woodland Buffer.

For the purpose of calculating impacts to the Protected Shoreland, impacts have been broken out by the following locations:

- Waterfront Buffer (WB): 0 feet (REF Line) to 50 feet
- Natural Woodland Buffer (NWB):
- 50 feet to 150 feet
- Protected Shoreland (PS): 150 feet to 250 feet

The proposed project is anticipated to result in a total of 258,323 square feet (SF) of impacts located within the overall Protected Shoreland area (WB + NWB + PS). There are two locations where the



proposed project is located within the Protected Shoreland of Harris Pond and one location within the Protected Shoreland of Bowers Pond. The first location is associated with a proposed ditch along the western side of the turnpike near the southern limits of the project (STA 767+50 – STA 772+20). This area is primarily located within the PS and a small portion of the NWB of Harris Pond. The next location includes a narrow finger of Harris Pond that extends to the west, just east of the existing roadway embankment (STA 786+50 – STA 794). The third and final location is at the existing F.E.E.T. crossing over Bowers Pond (STA 811+50 – STA 823+50). Impacts within the Protected Shoreland are primarily associated with full depth roadway reconstruction, widening, required grading, and construction of drainage improvements and stormwater treatment areas. Impacts to the Protected Shoreland have been avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable. However, widening alternatives were limited due to the location of the existing infrastructure and shoreland impacts were unavoidable.

Waterfront Buffer

Impacts within the WB of Harris Pond and Bowers Pond total approximately 24 SF and 19,695 SF respectively (19,719 SF total).

STA 786+50 – STA 794

Impacts within the WB of Harris Pond at Impact Locations F, G, and H total 24 SF, and are primarily associated with the replacement of an existing 18" reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) drainage structure located at STA 790+10. Due to the steep roadway embankment at this location and the proposed widening, the proposed project includes the installation of stone fill in order to stabilize the roadway embankment and ensure the protection of the proposed roadway infrastructure. Tree clearing will be required at this location for construction access, the proposed pipe replacement, required grading, and installation of the proposed stone.

STA 811+50 – STA 823+50

Impacts within the WB of Bowers Pond at Impact Locations K and L total 11,114 SF and 8,581 SF respectively (19,695 SF total) and are primarily associated with the replacement of the two bridges over Bowers Pond, roadway widening, grading, full depth roadway reconstruction, and construction of a stone-lined swale from a proposed stormwater treatment area (BMP 814). The impacts are primarily located with the existing pavement footprint and along the constructed causeways that extend out into Bowers Pond at the northern and southern bridge approaches.

Natural Woodland Buffer

Impacts within the NWB of Harris Pond and Bowers Pond total approximately 27,264 SF and 66,214 SF respectively (93,478 SF total).

STA 771+00

Impacts within the NWB of Harris Pond at Impact Location B total 239 SF and are associated with the construction of a proposed drainage ditch. Impacts are located within a cleared portion of the existing roadway shoulder within the existing ROW.

STA 786+50 – STA 794

Impacts within the NWB of Harris Pond at Impact Location E total 27,025 SF and are primarily associated with the proposed grading required to accommodate the proposed widening, as well as full depth



roadway reconstruction. Much of the NWB impact area is located within areas that are currently within the footprint of existing pavement. Tree clearing is required within this area for the proposed widening and required grading.

STA 811+50 – STA 823+50

Impacts within the NWB at Impact Locations J and M total 40,033 SF and 26,181 SF respectively (66,214 SF total), and are primarily associated with the proposed roadway widening, grading, full depth roadway reconstruction, and construction of a stormwater treatment area (BMP 814) in the southeast bridge quadrant. Tree clearing will be required to accommodate the proposed widening and grading, as well as the construction of the stormwater treatment area.

Protected Shoreland

Impacts within the PS of Harris Pond and Bowers Pond total approximately 89,481 SF and 55,645 SF respectively (145,126 SF total).

STA 767+50 – STA 772+20

Impacts within the PS of Harris Pond at Impact Locations A and C total 4,561 SF and are associated with the construction of a proposed drainage ditch. Impacts are located within a cleared portion of the existing roadway shoulder within the existing ROW.

STA 786+50 – STA 794

Impacts within the PS at Impact Location D total 84,920 SF and are primarily associated with the proposed full depth roadway reconstruction, widening, and required grading.

STA 811+50 – STA 823+50

Impacts within the PS at Impacts Locations I, N, O, and P total 33,866 SF, 20,920 SF, 235 SF, and 624 SF respectively (55,645 SF total). Impacts at Location I are primarily associated with the proposed roadway widening, required grading, full depth roadway reconstruction, and construction of a stormwater treatment area (BMP 814). Impacts at Location N are a result of the proposed roadway widening, required grading, and full depth roadway reconstruction. Impacts at Location O and P are associated with the proposed construction of a stormwater treatment area (BMP 821) and the installation of an outlet pipe from the stormwater treatment area.

Impervious Surfaces

The proposed project will result in a net increase in impervious surface due to the proposed widening and addition of a northbound and southbound travel lane. The pre-construction impervious area within the protected shoreland or "Lot" is approximately 111,258 SF. The post-construction impervious area within the protected shoreland or "Lot" is approximately 176,024 SF, or roughly a 58.2 percent increase. The total area of the "Lot" is 574,363 SF. The percentage of the "Lot" covered by pre-construction impervious surfaces is 19.4 percent, and the post-construction percentage is 30.6 percent.

The Shoreland Protection Rules, RSA 483-B:9, V(g)(1) state that, "No more than 30 percent of the area of a lot located within the protected shoreland shall be composed of impervious surfaces, unless a stormwater management system designed and certified by a professional engineer is implemented. Such



system design shall demonstrate that the post-development volume and peak flow rate based on the 10year, 24-hour storm event, shall not exceed the pre-development volume and peak flow rate for flow off the property within the protected shoreland." The post construction impervious (30.6 percent) just exceeds this threshold. A waiver of this minimum standard is being requested (see Request Waiver of Minimum Standards section below).

In addition, RSA 483-B:9, V(g)(3) states that, "If the impervious surface area will exceed 30 percent and the tree, sapling, shrub, and groundcover in the waterfront buffer does not meet the point score requirement of RSA 483-B:9, V(a)(2)(D) in any segment, then such segment shall be planted, as determined by rule of the department, with trees, saplings, shrubs, or groundcover in sufficient quantity, type, and location either to meet the minimum score or to provide at least an equivalent level of protection as provided by the minimum score and shall be maintained in accordance with RSA 483-B:9, V(a)(2)(D)." A request of this minimum standard is also being requested.

The overall 13761A project is anticipated to result in an approximately 3.35 acre increase in impervious surface associated with the proposed widening. Four stormwater treatment areas will be constructed in the project area and will treat runoff from approximately 14.8 acres of pavement, or approximately 4.4 times the area of additional pavement. The proposed project is not anticipated to cause or contribute to surface water impairments.

Natural Woodland Buffer Area Requirements

The total area of the Lot within the NWB is 211,397 SF. The majority of the existing NWB consists of the existing pavement surfaces and cleared portions of the roadway shoulders and transportation ROW. Approximately 69,170 SF or 32.72 percent of the existing Lot currently exists as "Natural Woodland". The post-construction condition will result in 43,070 SF or 20.37 percent of "Natural Woodland". This area does not meet the 25 percent natural woodland area Minimum Shoreland Protection Standard outlined under RSA 483-B:9 V.(b)(2)(A). A waiver of this minimum standard is being requested (see Request Waiver of Minimum Standards section below).

Request Waiver of the Minimum Standards

The following sections correspond to the sections of the NHDES Request Waiver of the Minimum Standards Form (NHDES-W-06-031).

Section 1

MINIMUM STANDARD(S) TO BE WAIVED (Env-Wq 1409.01)

1) RSA 483-B:9, V, (a)(2)(C):

No natural ground cover shall be removed except as necessary for a foot path to water and access ways as provided under RSA 483-B:9, V(a)(2)(D), (viii) and (ix), for normal maintenance, to protect the waterfront buffer, cutting those portions that have grown over 3 feet in height for the purpose of providing a view, to provide access to natural areas or shoreline, or as specifically approved by the department, pursuant to RSA 482-A or RSA 483-B.



2) RSA 483-B:9, V, (a)(2)(D):

Starting from the northerly or easterly boundary of the property, and working along the shoreline, the waterfront buffer shall be divided into segments measuring 25 feet along the reference line and 50 feet inland. Owners of land within the waterfront buffer shall measure, calculate, and maintain the tree, sapling, shrub, and groundcover point score in each of these segments in accordance with the methods and standards described in subparagraphs (i) through (ix).

3) RSA 483-B:9, V, (b)(2)(A):

On a given lot, at least 25 percent of the woodland buffer area located between 50 feet and 150 feet from the reference line shall be maintained as natural woodland. The vegetation, exclusive of lawn, within the natural woodland shall be maintained in an unaltered state or improved with additional vegetation. Owners of lots legally developed or landscaped prior to July 1, 2008 that do not comply with this standard are encouraged to, but shall not be required to, increase the percentage of the woodland buffer area to be maintained as natural woodland. The percentage of the woodland buffer area maintained as natural woodland on nonconforming lots shall not be decreased. In addition, the commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources within the protected shoreland to be cut when overgrowth of vegetation impairs law enforcement activities and endangers public safety. If such cutting will exceed that which is allowed under this subparagraph, the commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources shall provide written notification to the department of environmental services identifying the areas to be cut and an explanation of the need for the cutting at least 2 weeks prior to the undertaking.

4) RSA 483-B:9, V, (d)(3):

A permit under RSA 485-A:17, I shall be required for improved, developed, or subdivided land whenever there is a contiguous disturbed area exceeding 50,000 square feet that is either partially or wholly within protected shoreland.

5) RSA 483-B:9, V, (g)(1):

No more than 30 percent of the area of a lot located within the protected shoreland shall be composed of impervious surfaces, unless a stormwater management system designed and certified by a professional engineer is implemented. Such system design shall demonstrate that the post-development volume and peak flow rate based on the 10-year, 24-hour storm event, shall not exceed the pre-development volume and peak flow rate for flow off the property within the protected shoreland.

6) RSA 483-B:9, V, (g)(3):

If the impervious surface area will exceed 30 percent and the tree, sapling, shrub, and groundcover in the waterfront buffer does not meet the point score requirement of RSA 483-B:9, V(a)(2)(D) in any segment, then such segment shall be planted, as determined by rule of the department, with



trees, saplings, shrubs, or groundcover in sufficient quantity, type, and location either to meet the minimum score or to provide at least an equivalent level of protection as provided by the minimum score and shall be maintained in accordance with RSA 483-B:9, V(a).

Section 2

EXPLAIN HOW STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE MINIMUM STANDARD(S) WOULD PROVIDE NO MATERIAL BENEFIT TO THE PUBLIC (Env-Wq 1409.01; RSA 483-B:9, V, (i))

1) RSA 483-B:9, V, (a)(2)(C):

Strict compliance with RSA 483-B:9, V, (a)(2)(C) would not provide a material benefit to the public. The proposed project involves roadway reconstruction and widening, bridge replacements and associated drainage and stormwater improvements that require disturbance to ground cover within the waterfront buffer. The Lot consists of a linear transportation right-of-way and the purpose of the overall project is to increase safety and improve the capacity of the existing roadway. The existing and proposed structures are critical to the integrity of the roadway and due to the locations of the existing infrastructure, disturbance within the waterfront buffer is required for their replacement and reconstruction.

2) RSA 483-B:9, V, (a)(2)(D):

The WB within the Lot was not divided up into grid segments and tree, sapling, shrub, and groundcover point scores were not calculated for the proposed project. The majority of the WB impacts are located along the existing causeways at the northern and southern bridge approaches. These areas were constructed as part of the original highway construction in the 1950s. Since the original construction of the causeways, small trees and shrubs have colonized the edges of the causeways adjacent to Bowers Pond. The proposed project will require the removal of this vegetation to accommodate the proposed widening and bridge replacements. The existing causeways consist of stone and earthen fill that has been artificially constructed and is considered part of the existing crossing structure. The vegetation along the existing causeways provides limited shading, slope stabilization, stormwater filtration, and other functions typically provided by naturally vegetated banks and shorelines. The existing vegetation needs to be removed in order to construct the proposed project. Due to maintenance and safety concerns, trees or shrubs cannot be planted along the causeway. The causeway slopes will be vegetated with an herbaceous seed mix. Therefore, it is not possible for the project to meet the required point scores. Disturbed areas will be restored and seeded following construction.

3) RSA 483-B:9, V, (b)(2)(A):

Impacts to the NWB have been avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable, however, impacts are required to accommodate the proposed widening, required grading, bridge replacements, and the construction of stormwater treatment areas. Currently, 69,170 SF or 32.72 percent of the existing Lot exists as "Natural Woodland". Following completion of the proposed project, approximately 43,070 SF or 20.37 percent of the Lot will remain "Natural Woodland".



20.37 percent falls just short of the 25 percent requirement by approximately 9,779 SF. Therefore, the proposed project is unable to fully comply with this Minimum Standard.

4) RSA 483-B:9, V, (d)(3):

Per a Permit Exemption signed by NHDES and NHDOT in 2011, NHDOT projects are not required to obtain an Alteration of Terrain (AOT) Permit but must still comply with AOT regulations. Therefore, a permit under RSA 485-A:17 is not required.

5) RSA 483-B:9, V, (g)(1):

The proposed project would result in 30.6 percent of the entire Lot being composed of impervious surfaces, or an increase of 11.2 percent, from 19.4 percent existing impervious surface. The threshold of this Minimum Standard is exceeded by 0.6 percent. A standalone Stormwater Management Plan has not been prepared for the proposed NHDOT project. However, the proposed project includes the construction of four stormwater treatment areas that have been designed to meet or exceed MS4 and AOT requirements. The proposed stormwater BMPs would treat runoff from approximately 14.8 acres of pavement, approximately 4.4 times the area of additional pavement. Stormwater BMPs will be maintained in accordance with NHDOT's existing maintenance policies.

6) RSA 483-B:9, V(g)(3):

As aforementioned in numbers 2 and 5 above, the proposed project will exceed the 30 percent threshold by a nominal amount (0.6 percent) and tree, sapling, shrub, and groundcover scores in the WB have not been tabulated. No additional tree, sapling, or shrub plantings are proposed. Disturbed areas will be stabilized and seeded with a seed mix to help restore vegetation.

Section 3

EXPLAIN HOW GRANTING A WAIVER OF THE MINIMUM STANDARDS WOULD HAVE NO MATERIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT OR NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE STATE (Env-Wq 1409.01; RSA 483-B:9, V, (i))

A thorough alternatives analysis was completed and impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and Protected Shorelands have been avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable. A total of four proposed stormwater treatment areas will be provided to treat runoff from the existing and proposed impervious surfaces in the project area in order to help protect and maintain existing water quality. Portions of the linear transportation project do not meet the minimum standards outlined in RSA 483-B:9, V. However, these impacts are required in order to improve the safety and capacity of the F.E.E.T. and to address the purpose and need of the overall project. The majority of the land surrounding Bowers Pond and Harris Pond is owned by the Pennichuck Water Works and consists of undeveloped, forested lands, protected from future development. The impacts to the Protected Shoreland from the proposed project are relatively minor in size compared to the rest of the undeveloped Protected Shoreland surrounding these two surface waters. For these reasons, a waive r of the minimum standards requested herein is not anticipated to have a material adverse effect on the environment or natural resources of the state.



Request Waiver of the Minimum Standards Form





REQUEST WAIVER OF THE MINIMUM STANDARDS FORM Water Division/ Land Resources Management Shoreland Program <u>Check the Status of your Application</u>



RSA/ Rule: RSA 483-B, V, (i)/ Env-Wq 1409

This form may be used to request a waiver of the Minimum Standards of RSA 483-B:9, V of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (SWQPA). Waivers may only be granted if strict compliance with the minimum standards will provide no material benefit to the public and have no material adverse effect on the environment or the natural resources of the state. To be eligible for a waiver of the minimum standards, applicants must clearly demonstrate how these criteria are satisfied (complete Sections 1, 2, and 3). Alternatively, a waiver may be requested to accommodate the reasonable needs of persons with disabilities (complete Sections 1 and 4).

SECTION 1 - MINIMUM STANDARD(S) REQUESTED TO BE WAIVED (Env-Wq 1409.01)

RSA 483-B, V, (a)(2)(C); (a)(2)(D); (b)(2)(A); (d)(3); (g)(1); (g)(3)

SECTION 2 - EXPLAIN HOW STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE MINIMUM STANDARD(S) WOULD PROVIDE NO MATERIAL BENEFIT TO THE PUBLIC (Env-Wq 1409.01; RSA 483-B:9, V, (i))

See the Request Waiver of the Minimum Standards Section of the Supplemental Narrative included with this permit application submittal.

SECTION 3 - EXPLAIN HOW GRANTING A WAIVER OF THE MINIMUM STANDARDS WOULD HAVE NO MATERIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT OR NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE STATE (Env-Wq 1409.01; RSA 483-B:9, V, (i))

See the Request Waiver of the Minimum Standards Section of the Supplemental Narrative included with this permit application submittal.

SECTION 4 - PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (Env-Wq 1409.01; Env-Wq 1409.02(b); RSA 483-B:9, V, (i))

Please provide an explanation of how the proposal is adequate to ensure that the intent of RSA 483-B is met and explain why granting the waiver is necessary to accommodate the individual's disability. Please note, medical details are not being requested. Please only describe the limitations faced by the individuals for whom the waiver is being requested.

NOT APPLICABLE

Please also submit a statement signed by the physician who is attending the individual for the disability or disabilities certifying that the impacts or structures for which the waiver is being requested are necessary to accommodate the individual's disability or disabilities. Please note, details specific to the nature of the disability are not requested. Only specify that the project is necessary to meet the needs specific to the individual for whom the waiver is being requested.

Statement submitted.

Photo Log





Photo 1: Impact Location A (PS) West Side of FEET at Exit 8 SB Offramp



Photo 2: Impact Location B (NWB) West Side of FEET





Photo 3: Impact Location C (PS) West Side of FEET



Photo 4: Impact Location D (PS)





Photo 5: Impact Location E (NWB)



Photo 6: Impact Locations F, G, and H (WB) Drainage Outlet at Harris Pond




Photo 7: Impact Locations F, G, and H (WB) Drainage Outlet at Harris Pond



Photo 8: Impact Location I (PS) East Side of FEET South of Pennichuck Brook Crossing



PHOTO LOG - 4



Photo 9: Impact Location I (PS) West Side of FEET South of Pennichuck Brook Crossing



Photo 10: Impact Location J (NWB) East Side of FEET South of Pennichuck Brook Crossing





Photo 11: Impact Location J (NWB) West Side of FEET South of Pennichuck Brook Crossing



Photo 12: Impact Locations J (NWB) and K (WB) South of Pennichuck Brook Crossing





Photo 13: Impact Location L (WB) and M (NWB) North of Pennichuck Brook Crossing



Photo 14: Impact Location M (NWB) North of Pennichuck Brook Crossing





Photo 15: Impact Location N (PS) North of Pennichuck Brook Crossing



Photo 16: Impact Locations O and P (PS) North of Pennichuck Brook Crossing



PHOTO LOG - 8

Figure 2 – Tax Map





NHB DataCheck Results Letter



Memo

Please note: portions of this document are confidential.

Maps and NHB record pages are confidential and should be redacted from public documents.

- To: Stephen Hoffmann 53 Regional Drive Concord, NH 03301
- From: NHB Review, NH Natural Heritage Bureau
- **Date:** 2/24/2023 (valid until 02/24/2024)
- **Re**: Review by NH Natural Heritage Bureau
- Permits: NHDES Shoreland Standard Permit, NHDES Wetland Standard Dredge & Fill Major, USACE General Permit, USEPA Stormwater Pollution Prevention
 - NHB ID:NHB23-0523Town: NashuaLocation:F.E. Everett TurnpikeDescription:The NHDOT 13761A project includes the southernmost segment of the overall 13761 F.E. Everett Widening Project. The 13761A
project begins in Nashua, just north of Exit 8 and the Tinker Road overpass, and continues north for approximately two miles, just
south of Exit 10. Previous NHB reviews that included the southern segment included, NHB21-1748, NHB18-0238, and NHB16-
2791. The proposed project involves widening the F.E. Everett Turnpike from two lanes to three lanes in both the northbound and
southbound directions and associated roadway improvements including, replacement of the existing bridges carrying the Turnpike
over Pennichuck Brook/Bowers Pond, drainage improvements, and construction of stormwater treatment BMPs.
 - cc: NHFG Review

As requested, I have searched our database for records of rare species and exemplary natural communities, with the following results.

Comments NHB: Please provide NHB with representative photos during the growing season of any proposed impact areas and proposed plans. F&G: Please refer to NHFG consultation requirements below.

Plant species	State ¹	Federal	Notes
bird-foot violet (Viola pedata var. pedata)	Т		
clasping milkweed (Asclepias amplexicaulis)*	Т		This species grows in sandplains and disturbed openings, and is sensitive to disturbances that eliminate its habitat.
long-spined sandbur (Cenchrus longispinus)*	Е		This species grows in sandplains and disturbed openings, and is sensitive to disturbances that eliminate its habitat.

Memo

NH Natural Heritage Bureau NHB DataCheck Results Letter

Please note: portions of this document are confidential.

Maps and NHB record pages are confidential and should be redacted from public documents.

Vertebrate species	State ¹	Federal	Notes
Blanding's Turtle (Emydoidea blandingii)	Е		Contact the NH Fish & Game Dept (see below).
Eastern Hognose Snake (Heterodon platirhinos)	Е		Contact the NH Fish & Game Dept (see below).
Northern Black Racer (Coluber constrictor	Т		Contact the NH Fish & Game Dept (see below).
constrictor)			

¹Codes: "E" = Endangered, "T" = Threatened, "SC" = Special Concern, "--" = an exemplary natural community, or a rare species tracked by NH Natural Heritage that has not yet been added to the official state list. An asterisk (*) indicates that the most recent report for that occurrence was more than 20 years ago.

For all animal reviews, refer to 'IMPORTANT: NHFG Consultation' section below.

Disclaimer: A negative result (no record in our database) does not mean that a sensitive species is not present. Our data can only tell you of known occurrences, based on information gathered by qualified biologists and reported to our office. However, many areas have never been surveyed, or have only been surveyed for certain species. An on-site survey would provide better information on what species and communities are indeed present.

IMPORTANT: NHFG Consultation

If this NHB Datacheck letter DOES NOT include <u>ANY</u> wildlife species records, then, based on the information submitted, no further consultation with the NH Fish and Game Department pursuant to Fis 1004 is required.

If this NHB Datacheck letter includes a record for a threatened (T) or endangered (E) wildlife species, consultation with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department under Fis 1004 may be required. To review the Fis 1000 rules (effective February 3, 2022), please go to https://wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/environmental-review.html. All requests for consultation and submittals should be sent via email to NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov or can be sent by mail, and **must include the NHB Datacheck results letter number and "Fis 1004 consultation request" in the subject line.**

If the NHB DataCheck response letter does not include a threatened or endangered wildlife species but includes other wildlife species (e.g., Species of Special Concern), consultation under Fis 1004 is not required; however, some species are protected under other state laws or rules, so coordination with NH Fish & Game is highly recommended or may be required for certain permits. While some permitting processes are exempt from required consultation under Fis 1004 (e.g., *statutory permit by notification, permit by notification, routine roadway registration, docking structure registration, or conditional authorization by rule*), coordination with NH Fish & Game may still be required under the rules governing those specific permitting processes, and it is recommended you contact the applicable permitting agency. For projects <u>not</u> requiring consultation under Fis 1004, but where additional coordination with NH Fish and Game is requested, please email: Kim Tuttle <u>kim.tuttle@wildlife.nh.gov</u> with a copy to <u>NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov</u>, and include the NHB Datacheck results letter number and "review request" in the email subject line.

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Division of Forests and Lands (603) 271-2214 fax: 271-6488 DNCR/NHB 172 Pembroke Rd. Concord, NH 03301

Memo

NH Natural Heritage Bureau NHB DataCheck Results Letter

Please note: portions of this document are confidential.

Maps and NHB record pages are confidential and should be redacted from public documents.

Contact NH Fish & Game at (603) 271-0467 with questions.

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Division of Forests and Lands (603) 271-2214 fax: 271-6488 DNCR/NHB 172 Pembroke Rd. Concord, NH 03301

NHFG Coordination



Stephen Hoffmann

From: Sent: To: Subject: Tuttle, Kim <Kim.A.Tuttle@wildlife.nh.gov> Tuesday, July 6, 2021 2:11 PM Stephen Hoffmann RE: NHB review: NHB21-1748

Hello Steve,

If protected mussel species aren't listed on the NHB for this phase of the project, then no mussel survey is required.

Thanks,

Kim Tuttle Wildlife Biologist NH Fish and Game 11 Hazen Drive Concord, NH 03301 603-271-6544

From: Stephen Hoffmann <shoffmann@mjinc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 12:43 PM
To: Tuttle, Kim <Kim.A.Tuttle@wildlife.nh.gov>
Cc: DNCR: NHB Review <nhbreview@dncr.nh.gov>; Christine J. Perron <CPerron@mjinc.com>
Subject: RE: NHB review: NHB21-1748

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Hi Kim,

Have you or anyone else at NHFG had an opportunity to review the proposed project area for the potential presence of state listed mussels and/or the need for mussel surveys in any of the surface waters found in the project area? In order to keep the project on schedule, we hope to coordinate and complete any required surveys this summer. The two locations below are a priority based on the current project schedule. I've also reattached photos of the existing surface water resources and overall map of the project and surface water locations. Could you please provide guidance/recommendations on whether mussel surveys are required?

Thanks, Steve

1.) Pennichuck Brook (Bower's Pond Impoundment)



Baboosic Brook (S-7)
 Unnamed Intermittent Tributary of Baboosic Brook (S-6)
 Unnamed Intermittent Tributary to the Unnamed Intermittent Tributary of Baboosic Brook (S-5)



From: Stephen Hoffmann
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 9:59 AM
To: 'Tuttle, Kim' <Kim.A.Tuttle@wildlife.nh.gov>
Cc: 'DNCR: NHB Review' <nhbreview@dncr.nh.gov>; Christine J. Perron <CPerron@mjinc.com>
Subject: RE: NHB review: NHB21-1748

Good Morning Kim,

I am following up on my email from a few weeks ago regarding the potential need for mussel surveys in tributaries of the Merrimack River located within the NHDOT F.E. Everett Turnpike widening project in Nashua and Merrimack, NH. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you require any additional information to make this determination.

Thanks, Steve

From: Stephen Hoffmann Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 8:29 AM To: 'Tuttle, Kim' <<u>Kim.A.Tuttle@wildlife.nh.gov</u>> Cc: DNCR: NHB Review <<u>nhbreview@dncr.nh.gov</u>>; Christine J. Perron <<u>CPerron@mjinc.com</u>> Subject: RE: NHB review: NHB21-1748

Hi Kim,

I am reaching out regarding the subject NHB DataCheck Results Letter for the NHDOT F.E. Everett Turnpike widening project. The current review (NHB21-1748) is for the southern and middle segments of the overall 13761 project. You were involved in the coordination for the northern segment of the project last fall.

My first question is whether NHFG recommends or requires mussel surveys in any of the surface waters that are anticipated to be impacted by the proposed project? No mussel species were identified in the latest NHB Results Letter. However, in previous NHB reviews that included the northern segment, the project was identified as being located within an area flagged for possible impacts to the state-listed brook floater mussel (Merrimack River and tributaries). In preliminary project coordination, NHFG recommended surveying streams with suitable mussel habitat prior to construction so any rare mussels can be relocated. I have prepared the attached table summarizing the surface waters located within the southern and middle segments and the proposed work. Exact impact areas have not been determined at this time, but the majority of impacts to surface waters are associated with bridge and culvert replacements. I've also included a PDF with photographs of these areas as well as a figure showing the overall project and surface water locations to assist with your review/assessment. Please let me know if you have any questions or require any additional information. Again, the goal of this early coordination is to determine whether any mussel surveys will be required prior to construction.

Please let me know if you have any additional concerns or recommendations regarding any of the other species listed on the NHB Results Letter.

Thanks, Steve

From: DNCR: NHB Review <<u>nhbreview@dncr.nh.gov</u>>
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 3:47 PM
To: Stephen Hoffmann <<u>shoffmann@mjinc.com</u>>
Cc: Tuttle, Kim <<u>Kim.Tuttle@wildlife.nh.gov</u>>
Subject: NHB review: NHB21-1748

Attached, please find the review we have completed. If your review memo includes potential impacts to plants or natural communities please contact me for further information. If your project had potential impacts to wildlife, please contact NH Fish and Game at the phone number listed on the review.

Best, Jessica

Jessica Bouchard Environmental Reviewer / Ecological Information Specialist

NH Natural Heritage Bureau DNCR - Forests & Lands 172 Pembroke Rd Concord, NH 03301 603-271-2834

Stephen Hoffmann

From:	Newton, Kevin <kevin.m.newton@wildlife.nh.gov></kevin.m.newton@wildlife.nh.gov>
Sent:	Friday, June 2, 2023 10:26 AM
То:	Stephen Hoffmann
Cc:	Winters, Melissa; FGC: NHFG review; Christine J. Perron; Evans, Jonathan; Martin,
	Rebecca
Subject:	RE: Turtle Design Guidance NHB23-0523

Hi Steve,

Thanks for your questions. Some responses below:

- 1. The Pennichuck brook crossing is not identified by the NHFG Nongame and Endangered Species program as a hotspot for road mortalities for rare wildlife. However, the crossing may be a more important element for more common wildlife species, as animals tend to use river edges as travel corridors throughout the landscape.
- 2. Blanding's turtles predominately use wetland habitats with permanent shallow water and emergent vegetation such as marshes, swamps, bogs, and ponds. They will use vernal pools extensively in spring and will utilize upland areas during nesting season. They may use slow rivers and streams as mechanisms for dispersal between wetlands. Based on our records and the fragmentation of habitat in the area, improvements to terrestrial wildlife passage associated with the bridge replacement will likely have minimal positive impacts for Blanding's turtle. Rare snakes and amphibians may use crossings if designed correctly (allow for open light and designed to encourage use; e.g. funneling them through an area or tied to specific and preferred habitat features). However, at this location, small mammals would probably stand to benefit the most from the proposed improvements.
- 3. Vegetated 2:1 slopes would be navigable for turtles (and other species). Surface and vegetation should represent natural surroundings. Rip rap, if used, should not be large or angular and finer materials such as seeded soil, should be used to fill any voids.
- 4. Other comments for this project would include standard F & G recommendations:
 - a. All manufactured erosion and sediment control products, with the exception of turf reinforcement mats, utilized for, but not limited to, slope protection, runoff diversion, slope interruption, perimeter control, inlet protection, check dams, and sediment traps shall not contain plastic, or multifilament or monofilament polypropylene netting or mesh with an opening size of greater than 1/8 inches.
 - b. All observations of threatened or endangered species on the project site shall be reported to the NHFG nongame and endangered wildlife environmental review program by phone at 603-271-2461 and by email at <u>NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov</u>, with the email subject line containing the NHB DataCheck tool results letter assigned number, the project name, and the term Wildlife Species Observation.
 - c. Photographs of the observed species and nearby elements of habitat or areas of land disturbance shall be provided to NHFG in digital format at the above email address for verification, as feasible.
 - d. In the event a threatened or endangered species is observed on the project site during the term of the permit, the species shall not be disturbed, handled, or harmed in any way prior to consultation with NHFG and implementation of corrective actions recommended by NHFG.
 - e. Site operators shall be allowed to relocate wildlife encountered if discovered within the active work zone if in direct harm from project activities. Wildlife shall be relocated in close proximity to the capture location but outside of the work zone and in the direction the individual was heading. NHFG shall be contacted immediately if this action occurs.
 - f. NHFG, including its employees and authorized agents, shall have access to the property during the term of the permit.

Thanks, and let me know if you have any additional questions.

Kevin Newton Wildlife Biologist NH Fish and Game Department Wildlife Division 11 Hazen Drive, Concord NH 03301 Phone: 603-271- 5860

From: Stephen Hoffmann <SHoffmann@mjinc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 2:52 PM
To: Newton, Kevin <Kevin.M.Newton@wildlife.nh.gov>
Cc: Winters, Melissa <Melissa.J.Winters@wildlife.nh.gov>; FGC: NHFG review <NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov>; Christine
J. Perron <CPerron@mjinc.com>; Evans, Jonathan <Jonathan.A.Evans@dot.nh.gov>; Martin, Rebecca
<Rebecca.A.Martin@dot.nh.gov>
Subject: RE: Turtle Design Guidance NHB23-0523

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Hi Kevin,

Thank you for the additional information. The question regarding the NHFG/UNH research on turtle passage design came up at the NHDOT Natural Resource Agency Meeting on Wednesday May 17, specifically for the Pennichuck Brook crossing located within the 13761A F.E. Everett Turnpike project you referenced below. Mary Ann Tilton with NHDES recommended that we reach out to Sandi and Tom for input regarding specific details of the crossing such as side slopes of the causeways, surface materials, etc. in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed crossing and improvements over the existing conditions.

The design and details of the wildlife shelves are still being finalized, but we are currently anticipating an approximately two-foot-wide shelf in front of both abutments with approximately three feet of clearance under the proposed bridge structure (see snip below with this area circled). The wildlife shelves would be limited to areas of proposed riprap and would tie in to the vegetated 2:1 slopes along the existing causeways. We briefly evaluated extending the shelves along the entire length of the causeways but this would result in additional wetland and surface water impacts, and while not ideal, we assumed that most species can navigate the vegetated 2:1 slopes (see attached photos). The surface of the wildlife shelves will be a uniform, fine material, that fills the larger voids in the proposed riprap required for scour protection. As you can see in the attached photos, the potential for wildlife crossing currently exists, however, the rocky, uneven material in front of the existing abutments is not the most conducive for smaller reptile and amphibian passage.

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As a result of the discussion at the meeting it was determined that additional coordination with NHFG would be needed prior to finalizing design and permitting.

- 1) Is the Pennichuck Brook crossing a known hotspot for road mortalities (reptiles, amphibians, or other wildlife species)?
- 2) What species would NHFG anticipate using this crossing/benefitting the most from improvements to terrestrial wildlife passage?
 - I think you partially answered this below, "minimal benefits to T&E species" and "benefits to other common wildlife such as raccoons, fox, and small mammals"
 - NHDES seemed very concerned about the Blanding's turtle hit on the NHB datacheck. However, upon further review, this occurrence is located approximately 1.8 miles NW of the Pennichuck Brook crossing, in the vicinity of Green's Pond. Is Blanding's turtle a concern at the F.E. Everett Turnpike over Pennichuck Brook Crossing location?

- Additional wildlife species identified by NHB included northern black racer (I believe this population is considered extirpated/impacted by the Merrimack outlet development) and eastern hognose snake.
- 3) Does NHFG concur with the proposed design described above?
 - Shelves limited to areas of riprap;
 - Vegetated 2:1 slopes are passable for most species;
 - 2' wide x 3' high shelves on both sides;
 - Tread will be finer materials to fill larger voids in riprap.
- 4) Any additional RTE species or other fish and wildlife concerns?

Thanks, Steve

McFarland Johnson

Stephen Hoffmann | Environmental Analyst

\$\$\$2-862-9381

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From: Newton, Kevin <<u>Kevin.M.Newton@wildlife.nh.gov</u>>
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 10:34 AM
To: Stephen Hoffmann <<u>SHoffmann@mjinc.com</u>>
Cc: Winters, Melissa <<u>Melissa.J.Winters@wildlife.nh.gov</u>>; FGC: NHFG review <<u>NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov</u>>;
Subject: RE: Turtle Design Guidance NHB23-0523

Hi Steve,

In general, NHFG Nongame program recommends matching proposed crossings to the existing stream/river as closely as possible as to mimic natural conditions. In the case of larger bridges, inclusion of dry wildlife passage can provide opportunities for turtles (and other wildlife) to safely cross over land and avoid trying to cross over the highway.

A good example of this is the Minnesota/Vermont transportation guidance. It is a relatively low cost but efficient standard.



Grubbing materia has low costs and

To provide a passage Transportation speci riprap under all bridg ordinary high water a of this work is estima machine and operate along with a photo o existing bridge on Inf

Of course, different projects have different parameter and constrains. But in general, providing some level of dry wildlife passage should be a net benefit for wildlife.

In the case of the NHDOT13761A FE Everett Turnpike project (NHB23-0523), incorporating dry wildlife passage under the bridge may result in some minimal benefits to T&E species and would most likely benefit other common wildlife such as raccoons, fox, and small mammals.

Kevin

Kevin Newton Wildlife Biologist NH Fish and Game Department Wildlife Division 11 Hazen Drive, Concord NH 03301 Phone: 603-271- 5860

From: Stephen Hoffmann <<u>SHoffmann@mjinc.com</u>>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 2:14 PM
To: Houghton, Sandra <<u>Sandra.D.Houghton@wildlife.nh.gov</u>>; 'Tom.Ballestero@unh.edu' <<u>Tom.Ballestero@unh.edu</u>>;
Newton, Kevin <<u>Kevin.M.Newton@wildlife.nh.gov</u>>

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Thank you Sandi, I will coordinate with Kevin directly.

Thanks, Steve



McFarland Johnson

Stephen Hoffmann | Environmental Analyst

\$\$\$2-862-9381

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From: Houghton, Sandra <<u>Sandra.D.Houghton@wildlife.nh.gov</u>>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 12:23 PM
To: Stephen Hoffmann <<u>SHoffmann@mjinc.com</u>>; 'Tom.Ballestero@unh.edu' <<u>Tom.Ballestero@unh.edu</u>>; Newton,
Kevin <<u>Kevin.M.Newton@wildlife.nh.gov</u>>
Cc: Christine J. Perron <<u>CPerron@mjinc.com</u>>
Subject: RE: Turtle Design Guidance

Hello Stephen,

Thank you for reaching out. I've copied Kevin Newton here as he works on all NHDOT proposed projects for Nongame environmental review and can reply.

Thank you, Sandi

Sandra Houghton Wildlife Diversity Biologist Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program NH Fish and Game Department

From: Stephen Hoffmann <<u>SHoffmann@mjinc.com</u>>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 11:17 AM
To: 'Tom.Ballestero@unh.edu' <<u>Tom.Ballestero@unh.edu</u>>; Houghton, Sandra <<u>Sandra.D.Houghton@wildlife.nh.gov</u>>

Cc: Christine J. Perron <<u>CPerron@mjinc.com</u>> Subject: Turtle Design Guidance

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Good Morning Sandi and Tom,

Mary Ann Tilton with NHDES recommended that I reach out to you regarding the design of wildlife crossings, specifically wildlife shelves associated with a bridge replacement project. Mary Ann mentioned that you are currently working on an EPA grant looking at turtle crossings and preparing a guidance document for the design of turtle crossings. It sounded like you are still working on finalizing this document, but if you are able to provide any additional information at that this time that we could use to aid in our design it would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks, Steve



McFarland Johnson

Stephen HoffmannEnvironmental Analyst802-862-9381Visit our website to see how MJ employee owners are innovating to improve our world.



Stephen Hoffmann

From:	Magee, John <john.a.magee@wildlife.nh.gov></john.a.magee@wildlife.nh.gov>
Sent:	Monday, June 12, 2023 11:52 AM
То:	Stephen Hoffmann
Cc:	Evans, Jonathan; Martin, Rebecca; Christine J. Perron; Dionne, Michael
Subject:	RE: 13761A NHDOT F.E. Everett Turnpike - Pennichuck Brook Crossing

Hi Steve, you are correct about the fish relative to this project. I do not have additional concerns. I have cc'd Mike Dionne on this email.

John

John Magee (he/him/his) M.S., Certified Fisheries Professional Fisheries Habitat Research and Management Programs Coordinator New Hampshire Fish and Game Department 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301 Phone 603-271-2744 Fax 603-271-5829

Did you know? New Hampshire Fish and Game protects, conserves and manages more than 500 species of wildlife, including 63 mammals, 18 reptiles, 22 amphibians, 313 birds and 122 kinds of fish as well as thousands of invertebrates!

From: Stephen Hoffmann <SHoffmann@mjinc.com>
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 11:03 AM
To: Magee, John <john.a.magee@wildlife.nh.gov>
Cc: Evans, Jonathan <Jonathan.A.Evans@dot.nh.gov>; Martin, Rebecca <Rebecca.A.Martin@dot.nh.gov>; Christine J.
Perron <CPerron@mjinc.com>
Subject: 13761A NHDOT F.E. Everett Turnpike - Pennichuck Brook Crossing

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Hi John,

I am reaching out regarding the subject NHDOT project involving the widening of a section of the F.E. Everett Turnpike in Nashua and Merrimack, New Hampshire. This is the southernmost segment of the overall widening project and involves the replacement of the existing bridges spanning Pennichuck Brook (aka Bowers Pond). I've attached a USGS location map depicting the project location.

Pennichuck Brook has a series of four dams along its length including one (Holt Pond Dam) located upstream or west of the Turnpike, and a series of three (Bowers Dam, Harris Pond Dam, and Supply Pond Dam) located downstream or east of the Turnpike. I am assuming that aquatic organism/fish passage from downstream (i.e., the Merrimack River) is impeded by these three dams.

No rare, threatened, or endangered species were identified by NHB that are specifically associated with Pennichuck Brook (see attached DataCheck Results Letter). According to the NHDES WPPT and the 2020 NH WAP mapping, Pennichuck Brook is not identified as a cold water fishery or predicted cold water fishery, eastern brook trout water, or a water containing threatened, endangered species or species of conservation concern. The project is moving into the final design/permitting phase, and I just wanted to confirm with you that there are no additional concerns regarding fisheries. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thanks,

Steve



Stephen Hoffmann | Environmental Analyst

\$02-862-9381

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Shoreland Impact Plans





GENERAL



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DRAINAGE



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RAILKUAD SIGN	\uparrow		FIBER OPTIC DELINEATOR	⊡fod	⊡FOD
RAILROAD SIGNAL		$\triangleright \odot \triangleleft$	FIBER OPTIC SPLICE VAULT	$\overset{(f)}{\overset{\boldsymbol{\varsigma}}{\boldsymbol{\varsigma}}}$	
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CONSTR	UCTION NOTES	
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RB MARK NUMBER - GRANITE	G-1	
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REVISION DATE	DGN STATE PROJECT NO.	SHEET NO. TOTAL SHEETS



		5IAI	NASHUA & MERRIMACK			
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		STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE NASHUA & MERRIMACK			
		DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION • BUREAU OF HIGHWAY DESIGN			
vhb		MISC	ELLANEOU	IS DETAI	LS
DATE PLOTTED	VHB PROJECT NO.	DGN	STATE PROJECT NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
11/17/2023	52775.00	13761A Shr Det 02	13761A	5	44

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		DEPARTMENT OF TRANS	SPORTATION	• B	UREAU OF HIG	HWAY DESIGN		
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	VHB PROJECT NO.	DGN	STATE PROJECT NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS









	WETLAND CLASSIFICATION CODES
PSS1E	PALUSTRINE, SCRUB-SHRUB. BROAD-LEAVED DECIDUOUS, SEASONALLY FLOODED/SATURATED
PEM1Eh	PALUSTRINE, EMERGENT, PERSISTENT, SEASONALLY FLOODED/SATURATED, DIKED/IMPOUNDED
PF01E	PALUSTRINE, FORESTED, BROAD-LEAVED DECIDUOUS, SEASONALLY FLOODED/SATURATED
VP	VERNAL POOL
L1UBHh	LACUSTRINE, LIMNETIC, UNCONSOLIDATED BOTTOM, PERMANENTLY FLOODED, DIKED/IMPOUNDED

SUR PROCESSED	NHDOI	DALE	1/202//				KE/	
NEW DESIGN	VHB ТЕАМ	DATE	11/17/2023	NUMBER	DATE	STATION	STATION	DESCRIPTION
SHEET CHECKED		DATE						
AS BUILT DETAILS		DATE						

SHOREL	and impac	CT SUMMAF	RY
		AREAS (SF)	
	REF	WB50	NWB150
LOCATION	ТО	ТО	то
	WB50	NWB150	PS250
А			3,558
В		239	
С			1,003
D			84,920
E		27,025	
F	22		
G	1		
Н	1		
I			33,866
J		40,033	
К	11,114		
L	8,581		
М		26,181	
Ν			20,920
0			235
Р			624
FOTAL REF TO WI	B50 =	19,	719 SF
TOTAL WB50 TO	NWB150 =	93,	478 SF

ΤO 101AL WB50 10 NWB150 =TOTAL NWB150 TO PS250 = 145,126 SF

TOTAL IMPACTS REF TO PS250 = 258,323 SF



		STA	TE OF NEW HAN NASHUA & MERRIN	IPSHIRE MACK	
		DEPARTMENT OF TRANS	PORTATION • E	BUREAU OF HIG	HWAY DESIGN
vhb		SHOREL	AND IMPAC	T SUMI	MARY
DATE PLOTTED	VHB PROJECT NO.	DGN	STATE PROJECT NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
11/17/2023	52775.00 1	3761A_Shr_Summar	y 13761A	19	44

















)23	52775.00	13761A_Shore_Plans	13761A	27	44
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1. Erosion Control/Stormwater Control Selection, Sequencing and Maintenance

1.1. Comply with RSA 485-A:17 Terrain Alteration.

- 1.2. Install and maintain all erosion control/stormwater controls in accordance with the New Hampshire Stormwater Management Manual, Volume 3, Erosion and Sediment Controls During Construction, December 2008 (BMP Manual), available from the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES).
- 1.3. Install erosion control/stormwater control measures prior to the start of work and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- 1.4. Select erosion control/stormwater control measures based on the size and nature of the project and physical characteristics of the site, including slope, soil type, vegetative cover, and proximity to jurisdictional areas.
- **1.5.** Install perimeter controls prior to earth disturbing activities.
- 1.6. Install stormwater treatment ponds and drainage swales before rough grading the site.
- 1.7. Clean, replace, and augment stormwater control measures and infiltration basins as necessary to prevent sedimentation beyond project limits throughout the project duration.
- 1.8. Inspect erosion and sediment control measures in accordance with Section 645 of the specifications, weekly, and within 24 hours (during normal work hours), of any storm event greater than 0.25 inches of rain in a 24-hour period.
- 1.9. Contain stockpiles with temporary perimeter controls. Protect inactive soil stockpiles with soil stabilization measures (temporary erosion control seed mix and mulch, soil binder) or cover them with anchored tarps. If the stockpile is to remain undisturbed for more than 14 days, mulch the stockpile.
- 1.10.Maintain temporary erosion and stormwater control measures in place until the area has been permanently stabilized. 1.11.An area is considered stable if one of the following has occurred:
 - Base course gravels have been installed in areas to be paved;
 - A minimum of 85% vegetative growth has been established;
 - A minimum of 3" of non-erosive material such as stone or rip-rap has been installed;
 - Temporary slope stabilization has been properly installed (see Table 1).
- 1.12.Direct runoff to temporary practices until permanent stormwater infrastructure is constructed and stabilized. 1.13. Use temporary mulching, permanent mulching, temporary vegetative cover, and permanent vegetative cover to reduce the need for dust control.
- Use mechanical sweepers on paved surfaces where necessary to prevent dust buildup. Apply water, or other dust inhibiting agents or tackifiers. 1.14.Plan activities to account for sensitive site conditions
 - Sequence construction to limit the duration and area of exposed soils.
 - Clearly flag areas to be protected in the field and provide construction barrier to prevent trafficking outside of work areas.
 - Protect and maximize existing native vegetation and natural forest buffers between construction activities and sensitive areas.
- When work is undertaken in a flowing watercourse, implement stream flow diversion methods prior to any excavation or filling activity. 1.15.Utilize storm drain inlet protection to prevent sediment from entering a storm drainage system prior to the permanent stabilization of the contributing disturbed area.
- 1.16 Use care to ensure that sediments do not enter any existing catch basins during construction. Place temporary inlet protection at inlets in areas of soil disturbance that are subject to sedimentation.
- 1.17 Construct, stabilize, and maintain temporary and permanent ditches in a manner that will minimize scour. Direct temporary and permanent ditches to drain to sediment basins or stormwater collection areas.
- 1.18. Supplement channel protection measures with perimeter control measures when ditch lines occur at the bottom of long fill slopes. Install the perimeter controls on the fill slope to minimize the potential for fill slope sediment deposits in the ditch line.
- 1.19.Divert sediment laden water away from drainage inlet structures to the extent possible.
- 1.20.Install sediment barriers and sediment traps at drainage inlets to prevent sediment from entering the drainage system. 1.21.Clean catch basins, drainage pipes, and culverts if significant sediment is deposited.
- 1.22.Construct and stabilize dewatering infiltration basins prior to any excavation that may require dewatering. 1.23. Place and stabilize temporary sediment basins or traps at locations where concentrated flow (channels and pipes) discharge to the surrounding environment from areas of unstabilized earth disturbing activities.
- 1.24. Stabilize, to appropriate anticipated velocities, conveyance channels or pumping systems needed to convey construction stormwater to basins and discharge locations prior to use.
- 1.25.Size temporary sediment basins to contain the 2-year, 24 hour storm event.
- 1.26 Size temporary sediment traps to contain 3,600 cubic feet of storage for each acre of drainage area.
- 1.27.Construct detention basins to accommodate the 2-year, 24-hour storm event.
- 2. Construction Planning
 - 2.1. Divert off site runoff or clean water away from the construction activities to reduce the volume that needs to be treated on site. 2.2. Divert storm runoff from upslope drainage areas away from disturbed areas, slopes and around active work areas to a stabilized outlet location
 - 2.3. Construct impermeable barriers, as necessary, to collect or divert concentrated flows from work or disturbed areas.
 - 2.4. Locate staging areas and stockpiles outside of wetlands jurisdiction.
 - 2.5. Do not store, maintain, or repair mobile heavy equipment in wetlands, unless equipment cannot be practicably removed and secondary containment is provided.
 - 2.6. Provide a water truck to control excessive dust, at the discretion of the Contract Administrator.
- 3. Site Stabilization
 - 3.1. Stabilize all areas of unstabilized soil as soon as practicable, but no later than 45 days after initial disturbance. 3.2. Limit unstabilized soil to a maximum of 5 acres unless documentation is provided that demonstrates that cuts and fills are such that 5 acres is unreasonable.
 - 3.3. Use erosion control seed mix in all inactive construction areas that will not be permanently seeded within two weeks of disturbance and prior to September 15" of any given year in order to achieve vegetative stabilization prior to the end of the growing season.
 - 3.4. Apply, and reapply as necessary, soil tackifiers in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications to minimize soil and mulch loss until permanent vegetation is established.
 - 3.5. Stabilize basins, ditches and swales prior to directing runoff to them.
 - 3.6. Stabilize roadway and parking areas within 72 hours of achieving finished grade.
 - 3.7. Stabilize cut and fill slopes within 72 hours of achieving finished grade.
 - 3.8. When temporarily stabilizing soils and slopes, utilize the techniques outlined in Table 1.
 - 3.9. Stabilize all areas that can be stabilized prior to opening up new areas to construction activities.
 - 3.10.Utilize Table 1 when selecting temporary soil stabilization measures.

3.11 Divert off-site water through the project in an appropriate manner so as not to disturb the upstream or downstream soils, vegetation or hydrology beyond the permitted area.

3.12.Install and maintain construction exits anywhere traffic leaves a construction site onto a public right-of-way. 3.13. Sweep all construction related debris and soil from the adjacent paved roadways, as necessary.

EROSION CONTROL NOTES AND STRATEGIES

- 4 Slope Protection
 - to a stabilized outlet or conveyance.
 - 4.2. Consider how groundwater seepage on cut slopes may impact slope stability and incorporate appropriate measures to minimize erosion.
 - 4.3. Convey storm water down the slope in a stabilized channel or slope drain.
 - 4.4. The outer face of the fill slope should be in a loose, ruffled condition prior to turf establishment.
- 5. Winter Construction
 - environmental requirements will be met.
 - after October 15^{°°}. in accordance with Table 1.
 - after October 15^{°°}, in accordance with Table 1.
 - after November 30°, in accordance with Table 1.
 - Unless a winter construction plan has been approved by NHDOT, conduct winter excavation and earthwork such that no more than
 - 1 acre of the project is without stabilization an any one time.
- 6. Wildlife Protection Measures
 - at 603-271-3226 or by email at Bureau16@dot.nh.gov, indicating in the subject line the project name, number, and that a threatened/endangered species was found.
 - Bureau of Environment at the above email address.
 - handled, or harmed prior to receiving direction from the Bureau of Environment.
 - 6.4. Utilize wildlife friendly erosion control methods when: Erosion control blankets are used,
 - A protected species or habitat is documented,
 - The proposed work is in or adjacent to a priority resource area, and/or when specifically requested by NHB or NHF&G

GUIDANCE ON SELECTING TEMPORARY SOIL STABILIZATION MEASURES

					IADLE	T						
APPLICATION AREAS		DRY MULCI	H METHODS	5	HYDRAU	LICALLY A	APPLIED M	ULCHES ²	ROLLED	EROSION	CONTROL	BLANKETS ³
	НМТ	WC	SG	СВ	НМ	SMM	BFM	FRM	SNSB	DNSB	DNSCB	DNCB
SLOPES ¹												
STEEPER THAN 2:1	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
2:1 SLOPE	YES1	YES1	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
3:1 SLOPE	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
4:1 SLOPE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
WINTER STABILIZATION	4T/AC	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
CHANNELS												
LOW FLOW CHANNELS	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
HIGH FLOW CHANNELS	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES

ABBREV.	STABILIZATION MEASURE	ABBREV.	STABILIZATION MEASURE	ABBREV.	STABILIZATION MEASURE
НМТ	HAY MULCH & TACK	НМ	HYDRAULIC MULCH	SNSB	SINGLE NET STRAW BLANKET
WC	WOOD CHIPS	SMM	STABILIZED MULCH MATRIX	DNSB	DOUBLE NET STRAW BLANKET
SG	STUMP GRINDINGS	BFM	BONDED FIBER MATRIX	DNSCB	2 NET STRAW-COCONUT BLANKET
СВ	COMPOST BLANKET	FRM	FIBER REINFORCED MEDIUM	DNCB	2 NET COCONUT BLANKET

NOTES:

- in feet.
- NHDES approval.
- 3. Install all methods in Table 1 per the manufacturer's recommendation for time of year and steepness of slope

4.1. Intercept and divert storm runoff from upslope drainage areas away from unprotected and newly established areas and slopes

5.1. To minimize erosion and sedimentation impacts, limit the extent and duration of winter excavation and earthwork activities. The maximum amount of disturbed earth shall not exceed a total of 5 acres from May 1" through November 30", or exceed one acre during winter months, unless the contractor demonstrates to the Department that the additional area of disturbance is necessary to meet the contractor's Critical Path Method (CPM) schedule, and the contractor has adequate resources available to ensure that

5.2. Construction performed any time between November 30" and May 1" of any year is considered winter construction. During winter construction: • Stabilize all proposed vegetation areas which do not exhibit a minimum of 85% vegetative growth by October 15", or which are disturbed

• Stabilize all ditches or swales which do not exhibit a minimum of 85% vegetative growth by October 15°, or which are disturbed

• Protect incomplete road surfaces, where base course gravels have not been installed, and where work has stopped for the season

6.1. Report all observations of threatened and endangered species on the project site to the Department's Bureau of Environment by phone

6.2. Photograph the observed species and nearby elements of habitat or areas of land disturbance and provide them to the Department's

6.3. In the event that a threatened or endangered species is observed on the project during work, the species shall not be disturbed,

1. All slope stabilization options assume a slope length \leq 10 times the horizontal distance component of the slope, 2. Do not apply products containing polyacrylamide (PAM) directly to, or within 100 feet of any surface water without

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	DATE 7/2021				RE	SEVISIONS AFTER PROPOSAL	
NEW DESIGN VHB TEAM	DATE 11/17/2023	NUMBER	DATE	STATION	STATION	DESCRIPTION	
SHEET CHECKED B. ARCIERI	DATE 11/17/2023						
AS BUILT DETAILS	DATE						
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