

Public Statement
Dummer-Cambridge-Errrol

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other state and federal regulations, the NHDOT must investigate the potential impacts that our projects will have on the surrounding natural, cultural, and social environment. Identifying key resources early in the project development process enables the Department to avoid or minimize impacts as design proceeds.

Part of our review involves historic resources. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Department is reviewing the project area to determine if there are historic resources within the area that would be impacted by the construction of this project. Historic properties can include buildings and structures fifty years or older as well as archaeological sites. In addition to age, it also must be determined if a structure is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

An archaeological survey has been completed; no resources were found, and no further survey is required.

No aboveground resources have been identified in the project area. However, we are asking that if anyone has concerns about historical or archaeological resources in or adjacent to the project area, they bring them to our attention tonight or contact us after this meeting.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act offers individuals or organizations with a demonstrated interest in the potential impacts to historic resources have an opportunity to become Consulting Parties. Those interested would need to indicate so in writing to the Federal Highway Administration. Please see me after the meeting if you would like more information.

Natural resources:

Wetlands and Surface Waters

- Wetlands are located throughout the project area to the west; impacts will be minimized to the extent practicable but cannot be avoided.
- The Androscoggin River is located along the entire length of the project to the east. Minor impacts are anticipated to the bank of the river.
- 2 stream crossings in the project area will need to be replaced.
- Permits will be obtained from NHDES and the Army Corps
- Mitigation for wetland/stream impacts will be needed; NHDOT will continue to coordinate with the resource agencies to determine the most appropriate mitigation.

The Department is proactively seeking mitigation opportunities, options include a payment into the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (ARM Fund), the Stream Passage Improvement Program

(SPIP) or other town or community priorities. We are asking if anyone in attendance has any appropriate mitigation efforts that the Department may evaluate and consider undertaking, please let us know or contact us after the meeting.

Shoreland

- The Androscoggin is subject to protection under the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. Impacts within 250' of the river will require a Shoreland Permit.

Water Quality

- Increase in impervious surface area is anticipated
- Stormwater treatment will be provided; DOT will identify appropriate locations and types of treatment once preferred alternative is selected.

Conservation Lands

- The 13 Mile Woods Community Forest is located along the entire project area. This is a 7,100-acre multi-use forest, protected by LCHIP and Forest Legacy easements, and owned and managed by the Town of Errol. Coordination is underway with all of these stakeholders.

Federally-listed species

- Northern long-eared bat – will be reviewed under the 4(d) rule or Programmatic Consultation.
- Canada lynx – no concerns are anticipated.

State-listed species

- A rare plant survey will be completed in suitable habitat for one state threatened plant species.
- Wild brook trout and slimy sculpin are expected to occur in the streams within the project area; coordination with NHFG will continue.

Floodplains

- The river is a FEMA-mapped regulatory floodway and there is also 100-year floodplain (Zone AE) associated with the river and tributaries.
- Impacts to the floodplain are anticipated. Appropriate mitigation for these impacts will be considered once the preferred alternative is selected.

Public Involvement

- Letters were sent in January 2019 to town officials in Errol and Dummer to seek input on the project.
- Only one response was received (Errol Heritage Commission)