

NH Route 28 / Main Street - Chichester, NH
NHDOT Project #40631
Public Involvement Plan

New Hampshire Department of Transportation

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

Purpose of Public Involvement Plan

The purpose of this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is to describe the public outreach activities that will be implemented as part of the Chichester 40631; NH Route 28 / Main Street project. This PIP will:

- Provide contact information for the Project Team;
- Explain the anticipated public outreach process;
- Communicate upcoming meeting dates and overall project schedule;
- List and describe the anticipated communication products and methods;

This PIP will be updated periodically to reflect updates to the project schedule, project meeting dates, and other items that may change over the course of the project. This Plan will be considered a living document throughout the project.

Public Outreach Approach

The Project will aim to evaluate and incorporate principles of Context Sensitive Solutions and Design (CSS/D), which is defined by FHWA as a “collaborative, interdisciplinary decision-making process and design approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting”. A Stakeholder is defined as people and organizations, including agency staff and elected officials, organized groups, area residents, and business owners, affected by the project. This may include local government, utility companies, groups associated with environmental or economic concerns, emergency services, etc.

Additional information on the CSS/D process can be found at the following link:
(<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/csd/qualities.htm>).

Project Overview

The project is located in the Town of Chichester on NH Route 28 at the intersections of Main Street and Depot Road. The project was initiated through the Regional Planning Commission and the Town of Chichester, and included in the State’s Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan for Construction in Fiscal Years (FY) 2025-2026.

The purpose of the project is to improve safety at the intersections of NH Route 28 with Main Street and Depot Road. The Lakes Region and Central New Hampshire Planning Commissions hired Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc to complete a *NH Route 28 Corridor Preliminary Project Planning Report*, August 2009. This study involved formation of a Public Advisory Committee (PAC), Road Safety Audit, and provided recommendations for the corridor. This study identified the horizontal

alignment as the primary concern, with Main Street having three approaches to NH Route 28. Traffic volumes indicate that Main Street has become a significant commuter cut through between NH Route 28 and Route 4.

The project is anticipated to reconstruct the existing intersection to include one approach leg for Main Street. Signalized, roundabout, and other alternative intersection designs will be considered. Considerations will also be made for pedestrian accommodations and access control for the wide commercial drive on the Main Street approach. Drainage upgrades are also anticipated to support the proposed improvements and meet water quality requirements. Utility relocations are also anticipated.

Project Team and Stakeholders

PROJECT TEAM			
NAME	ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
Tobey Reynolds	Project Manager / Chief of Roadway Section, NHDOT	603-271-7421	Tobey.L.Reynolds@dot.nh.gov
Trent Zanes	Roadway Section Group Leader, NHDOT	603-271-7423	Trent.C.Zanes@dot.nh.gov
Town of Chichester		603-798-5350	

PROJECT PROCESS

NHDOT Project Development Process

All NHDOT projects, including the Chichester 40631 project, are developed through a seven-step project development process illustrated below.

- Project Scoping / Data Collection / Coordination
- Preliminary Engineering Studies / Environmental Evaluation
- Identification of Preferred Alternative / Draft Environmental Documentation
- Formal Public Hearing Process
- Selected Alternative / Final Environmental Documentation
- Final Design (Project Construction Plan Development) / Right-of-Way Acquisition
- Project Construction

Since the CSS/D process seeks to help gather critical input in the early phase of this project, and ultimately developing a shared vision as a basis for decisions and problem solving, most of the collaboration within the Project Team will be early in project development, prior to identification of a “Preferred Alternative”. Additional general detail on the project development process can be found in ‘*Project Development – Making Transportation Projects a Reality*’ guide that is available on the Department’s website at the following link: <https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/plans.htm> under the *Citizens Guide to Transportation Series* section.

Project Meetings

The NHDOT will hold a series of meetings with local officials, public agencies, abutters, and other stakeholders as needed. A formal Public Hearing will also be held to present the recommended alternative. The overall purpose of these meetings will include:

- Introducing the project;
- Providing information to the community and creating a setting for discussion and feedback that will help form the alternatives;
- Presenting and describing the potential alternatives and associated impacts of each;
- Providing adequate opportunity for public comments and public involvement throughout the multi-year process; and
- Addressing concerns of the public, officials, agencies and stakeholders.

The meetings will be open to all members of the public and are anticipated to consist of the following general formats:

- **Public Officials Meetings:** These meetings will be scheduled, as necessary, to inform the Town and State elected officials, municipal staff, the members of the Town boards, and other interested members of the public about the details of the project.
- **Public Information Meetings:** The objective of public informational meetings is to review the problem and vision statements and receive feedback on the project alternatives that are acceptable to the community and public at-large. The public informational meetings are intended to be an afternoon / evening session to discuss the various aspects of the project and gather input from the community regarding the alternatives that they feel will help to solve the project problems and needs and fit with the community's vision for the project. The meeting will be widely advertised within the community with notices posted in prominent public places, including local and regional newspapers, and on the Towns website.
- **Public Hearing:** Once a Preferred Alternative has been identified for the project and the environmental documentation completed, a formal Public Hearing to secure layout approval for the project, will be scheduled. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to inform the public of the design alternative that was selected for construction. This Hearing serves to meet the requirements of the NHDOT public information process. The Hearing will be widely advertised within the community with notices posted in prominent public places and on the Town's website. Hearing notices will also be advertised in local and regional newspapers. Invitations will be sent by certified mail to all abutting property owners potentially directly impacted by the project. Invitations will also be sent to local, regional, and State Officials, as well as to environmental and other interest groups. Depending on the final layout of the Preferred Alternative, a Public Hearing may or may not be required for this project.

Project Schedule

The status and general sequence of the anticipated public meetings are detailed below. This Schedule will be updated as the project moves forward to reflect more specific dates. Materials presented will be available on the project website.

Public Meetings		
Entity	Purpose	Date
Public Officials Meeting (more than one meeting may be required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing conditions, design controls, and concerns Review 2009 Corridor Study alternatives Present and receive feedback on design alternative concepts 	Winter 2022
Public Information Meeting #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present and receive feedback on design alternatives. Discuss preferred alternative 	Spring 2022
Public Information Meeting #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present and solidify preferred alternative. 	Fall 2022
Public Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal presentation of project design 	Spring 2023
Public Information Meeting / Public Official Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide project updates during final design and construction as needed 	TBD
Construction	Summer 2026	

COMMUNICATION METHODS

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

NHDOT Website

A web page for the Chichester 40631 project has been created on the NHDOT website and will be used to post pertinent project information. The web page can be accessed at the NHDOT's Project Information Center at <https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/plans.htm>. The purpose of the website is to keep the public informed about the project and provide another way for the public to provide input. The web page content will be updated at project milestones and, as necessary, after project meetings.

Meetings

Public Informational meetings and Public Officials meetings will be used to disseminate and discuss pertinent project related information. These meetings may be conducted either in-person or on virtual platforms.

Press Releases

Media

In order to help maximize the distribution of meeting notices for the Public Informational meetings, Public Hearing, news releases and/or meeting notices will be provided to local and regional newspapers.

- **Local Newspaper:** Concord Monitor
 - **Publication Frequency:** Daily
 - **Distribution:** Town/Region New Hampshire
 - **Address:** 1 Monitor Drive, Concord NH 03302
 - **Phone:** 603-224-4287
 - **E-mail:** customerservice@cmonitor.com
 - **Website:** <https://www.concordmonitor.com/>

Social Media

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

Surveys

Use of surveys will be evaluated throughout the project development. These surveys will be used to help build consensus on design options.

U.S. Postal Service Notices to Abutters

The NHDOT will provide advance notice to the project abutters through the U.S. Postal Service when the Public Hearing will occur. The location, time and other details of the Public Hearing will be included in the notice.