

**ALTON - GILFORD 40634
NH ROUTE 11 PLANNING STUDY**



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Prepared for:
NHDOT

Prepared by:
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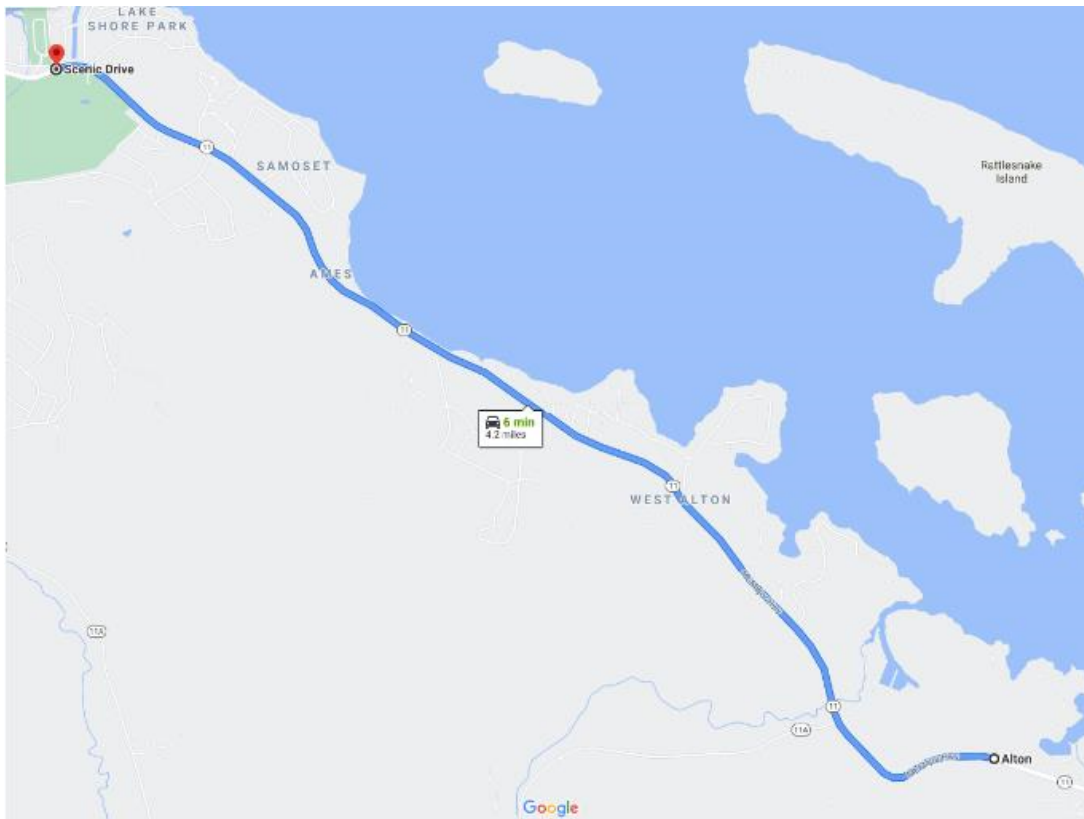
October 2021

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1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

1.1 Project Background

The section of NH Route 11 from East of Ellacoya State Park in Gilford to East of Minge Cove Road in Alton is being studied to identify priority needs for improvement. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) has requested that a Planning Study be undertaken to assist in future decision making along this 4.2 mile stretch of roadway. The Planning Study will analyze segments of roadway within the corridor that are in need of improvement. The Planning Study will identify and prioritize these improvements, which could then become projects for inclusion in a future Ten-Year plan. Below is a map of the project limits:



Additional project information can be found at NHDOT’s project website at the following link:
<https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/altongilford40634/index.htm>

1.2 Purpose of the Public Involvement Plan

The purpose of this Public Involvement Plan is to provide an overview of the steps anticipated to engage the public to obtain input to aid in determining the needs within the project study area. The NHDOT Public Involvement Plan will:

- Provide contact information for the NHDOT Project Manager;
- List the members of the public officials selected by the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LFPC) for the Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC);
- Explain the NHDOT Project Development Process as it pertains to this project;

- Communicate upcoming public meetings and the project schedule;
- List anticipated communication methods used to inform the public of progress and decisions made;
- Explain how the project team will provide timely and useful information.

The Public Involvement Plan will be updated periodically to reflect any updates to the project meeting dates and locations, project schedule, and other relevant items over the course of development of the Planning Study.

1.3 Major Project Components and Benefits

The major project components include the following:

- Public Meetings and public participation opportunities in the form of meetings with the Corridor Advisory Committee to identify current corridor issues, safety concerns, and provide perspective on alternative aspects of travel in the study area;
- Evaluations of Improvement Concepts;
- Published Planning Study.

The major project benefits may include the following:

- Improved traffic conditions throughout the project area;
- Improved multimodal features
- Improved safety throughout the project area.

1.4 Project Team and Stakeholders

The project objectives will be achieved through collaboration with town officials, town staff, members of the Corridor Advisory Committee, the public-at-large, and the Lakes Region Planning Commission. The project will be led by the project sponsor, NHDOT. NHDOT has retained a consultant team of GM2 Associates, Inc. (GM2) and Weston & Sampson (W&S) to assist in the tasks necessary to produce the Planning Study.

The point of contact for all questions is the NHDOT Project Manager, Tobey Reynolds, P.E. His contact information is shown below as well as other key members of the NHDOT project team:

- Tobey Reynolds, P.E., Chief Project Manager – (603) 271-7421; Tobey.L.Reynolds@dot.nh.gov
- Trent Zanes, P.E., Roadway Section Group Leader – (603) 271-7423; Trent.C.Zanes@dot.nh.gov

The following list includes key members of the consultant team:

- Darren Blood, P.E., Consultant Project Manager at GM2
- Jennifer Mercer, P.E., Senior Highway Engineer at GM2
- Seth Hill, P.E., Senior Highway Engineer at GM2
- Jeffery Santacruce, P.E., P.T.O.E, Traffic Engineering Leader at W&S

The community-based Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) will be formed and will act in an advisory capacity to help the NHDOT project team. The following list includes the members of the CAC:

- Alton Town Officials:
 - o Reuben Wentworth, Selectman – (603) 817-4746; ahgc@tds.net
 - o Russ Wilder, Conservation Commission Member – (603) 998-0142; russwilder@msn.com
 - o Drew Carter, Planning Board Chairman – (603) 234-9878; drew.altonpb@gmail.com
- Gilford Town Officials:
 - o Kevin Hayes, Selectman – (603) 527-4706; civiltakeoffsjkh@gmail.com

- Meghan Theriault, DPW Director – (603) 527-4778; dpwdirector@gilfordnh.org
- Laconia City Officials:
 - Dean Trefethen, Planning Director – (603) 527-1264; dtrefethen@laconianh.gov
- Lakes Region Planning Commission:
 - Jeffrey Hayes, Executive Director – (603) 707-9250; jhayes@lakesrpc.org

2.0 PROJECT PROCESS

2.1 NHDOT Project Development Process

The project is following the standard NHDOT project development process and is in the Study Phase, which varies from project to project more so than the subsequent design and construction phases. The Study Phase will include the following:

- Determine existing conditions and constraints;
- Compile existing traffic volume and safety data;
- Create an existing base map using aerial mapping;
- Develop an existing traffic model for the intersections and roadway segments;
- Working group meetings with the Corridor Advisory Committee to identify current corridor issues, safety concerns, and provide perspective on alternative aspects of travel in the study area;
- Evaluate improvement concepts based on priority segments determined with input from the LRPC, stakeholders, and municipalities;
- Public Informational Meetings to present the conceptual improvements;
- Prepare and submit a Planning Study report.

2.2 Project Meetings

The NHDOT project team will hold a series of public meetings with local officials, public agencies, the CAC, project abutters, and the general public. The community-based CAC will act in an advisory capacity throughout the project. The general timeframe of the anticipated public meetings is detailed below and any materials presented at the meeting will be available on NHDOT's project website:

- Corridor Advisory Committee Meeting #1 – October 27, 2021
- Corridor Advisory Committee Meeting #2 – December 8, 2021
- Corridor Advisory Committee Meeting #3 – TBD
- Corridor Advisory Committee Meeting #4 – TBD
- Corridor Advisory Committee Meeting #5 – TBD
- Public Informational Meeting in Alton – Summer 2022
- Public Informational Meeting in Gilford – Summer 2022

2.3 Project Schedule

The following is an approximate project schedule that is subject to change. The schedule will be updated as the project progresses:

- 2021: Data Collection
- Develop Traffic Models
- Initial Corridor Advisory Committee Meetings
- 2022: Develop/Evaluate Conceptual Improvements

Additional Corridor Advisory Committee Meetings
Public Informational Meetings
Develop/Finalize Planning Study Report

3.0 PROJECT COMMUNICATION METHODS

Effective communication is essential to the on-going success of the project. Below are the anticipated communication methods for this project. The effectiveness of each will be assessed as the project progresses to determine if the methods of communication in use are effective or if adjustments need to be made.

3.1 NHDOT Project Website

Additional project information can be found at NHDOT's project website where project materials are available for viewing and/or downloading. The website includes the scope of work, contact information, and the available files. As the project advances, additional information such as plans and/or public presentation materials will be added. Click the following link to access the project:

<https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/altongilford40634/index.htm>

3.2 E-Mail

The primary method of communication for this project will be e-mail. Meeting agendas, graphics, visual aids, and meeting minutes as well as any other pertinent project information will be sent out through e-mail.

3.3 Public Meetings

The NHDOT project team will hold a series of public meetings with local officials, public agencies, the CAC, project abutters, and the general public. The purpose of these meetings is to engage and get feedback from the local traveling public who typically travels the study area on a regular basis and may be more aware of the possible deficiencies or improvements needed. Any materials presented at these meetings will be available on the project website.

3.4 Notice to Abutters

The NHDOT will provide advance notice for the meetings via NHDOT's website on the News and Media page. The location, time, and other details of the meeting will be provided in that notice. Click the following link to access the NHDOT's News and Media page:

<https://www.dot.nh.gov/news-and-media>