

Public Informational Meeting Statement
Bartlett-Jackson, 41989
Bartlett Bridge #153/108
November 2, 2020

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 identifying historic and cultural resources. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Department reviewed the project area to determine if there are historic or cultural resources within the vicinity that would be impacted by the construction of this project. Historic and cultural resources can include buildings and structures fifty years old or older, as well as archaeological sites. In addition to age, it also must be determined if a structure maintains enough integrity to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The existing concrete rigid frame bridge was constructed in 1955, with alterations to the railings in 1976 and widening in 1996. The bridge was determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as it has no notable technological or aesthetic features. The bridge is immediately south of the Maine Central Railroad White Mountains Division. Further study has determined there is no Potential to Cause Effect for archaeological resources as the proposed undertakings will be confined to already disturbed soils. 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.

Regarding environmental resources, a wetland registration will likely be needed from the NH Department of Environmental Services for temporary scaffolding. As the project proceeds, we will continue to coordinate with the appropriate agencies to avoid or minimize impacts to Stony Brook. Additionally, the project is located within the ranges of the northern long-eared bat and the Canada lynx, which are both federally protected as threatened species by Endangered Species Act. It is not anticipated that this work will jeopardize these species. The work is not anticipated to adversely affect water or air quality, contribute to noise pollution, encounter contaminated materials or impact conservation lands.