

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE REPORT

SUBJECT: Monthly SHPO-FHWA-ACOE-NHDOT Cultural Resources Meeting

DATE OF CONFERENCES: April 11, 2019

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: John O. Morton Building

ATTENDED BY:

NHDOT

Ron Crickard
Jill Edelmann
Marc Laurin

NHDR

Laura Black
David Trubey

Marty Kennedy
Quinn Stuart-Knight

VHB

Jason Hilton

Consulting Parties

Rob Stephenson

PROJECTS/PRESENTATIONS REVIEWED THIS MONTH:

(minutes on subsequent pages)

Jaffrey 16307, X-A001(234).....1

Jaffrey 16307, X-A001(234)

Participants: Quinn Stuart-Knight, Jason Hilton, Marty Kennedy, VHB; Marc Laurin, NHDOT; Rob Stephenson, Consulting Party

Continued consultation for proposed improvements to the intersection of US 202 with NH 124 and NH 137 in the Town of Jaffrey. The project addresses traffic congestion and safety-related deficiencies associated with the current dogleg configuration of US 202 and proposed relocation of US 202 on new alignment to a new Contoocook River crossing located upstream of the Main Street bridge.

The purpose of the meeting was to update the agencies on progress made on the project design and cultural resource evaluations. M. Kennedy introduced the project and the project alternatives that have been studied. M. Kennedy elaborated on why, in a collaboration between VHB and the Town of Jaffrey, the preferred bridge crossing location was chosen and why the proposed double round-about configuration was chosen. J. Hilton also included information on potential locations for BMPs.

Q. Stuart introduced the cultural resources potentially affected by the project. The discussion focused on the two roundabouts and the properties associated with each component of the project.

Following a question regarding takings, M. Kennedy discussed the partial strip taking at the VFW Park, which is owned by a private committee, not the town. M. Kennedy confirmed he is working with the committee regarding the partial acquisition and final design needs.

R. Stephenson expressed concerns and preferences regarding the following:

- double roundabouts, views down the river, design of the bridge (height and design);

- leaving south side of Main Street and North side of River Street as an “island” due to a by-pass;
- suggested treatments of the 2 roundabouts, including public art, etc.; and
- the potential to bury utilities at Main and River.

M. Laurin discussed requirements of Section 106 to R. Stephenson. M. Kennedy reported that VHB has spoken with the town improvement committee to design and correlate with improvement plans.

L. Black asked follow-up questions pertaining to the RPR, which was submitted to NHDHR in March 2018. She was interested in ensuring the historic road configuration and the landscape elements were considered as historic resource elements. L. Black also requested an individual inventory form and National Register evaluation be prepared for 21 River Street due to the planned acquisition of the property, and J. Edelman concurred. Both also agreed that photos of 19 River Street are also needed to determine if inventory is necessary for the same reason, as the structure is not visible from the public way. L. Black also asked about the status of the Monadnock Railroad and its potential survey, which was a comment included in the RPR response from March 22, 2018. Q. Stuart reported that it was included as a contributing resource in the Downtown Jaffrey Historic District boundary increase area form, submitted in January 2019 as a response to the NHDHR RPR response. L. Black and J. Edelman agreed that a holistic survey of the railroad corridor is not being completed as part of this project as the project would only impact a portion of the corridor that has already been altered extensively, but that it may be undertaken and possibly deemed eligible in the future.

D. Trubey asked about archaeology and the status of the survey by IAC, the archaeology subcontractor. He recommended the study include the areas being considered for BMPs and drainage.

L. Black identified additional needs for the project team and agencies to assess effects, including VHB’s consideration of impacts to development patterns, “places,” and connections to the river (elements pertaining to associations with the “feeling” aspect of integrity). These are considerations that are less building focused, although individual resources like 21 River Street may need individual assessments. She recommended thinking of using the effects table with a full effects sheets and emphasizing view sheds that are very important to this project. She also wanted to make sure effects to National Register-listed Jaffrey Mills will be included in the list of effects. Also she suggested that VHB cultural staff have a continued conversation with VHB engineers to minimize the identified effects to historic properties and provide the engineers with a list of effects that are being evaluated. She also wants VHB to look closer at partial takings – i.e., more than just front lawn strips.

R. Stephenson asked about the existing Main Street Bridge and if there are proposed repairs or a replacement in the plan. M. Kennedy reported that repair and replacement is not part of the scope and would need to be a town-funded project. The project would include resurfacing, sidewalks, and parking as part of the intersection realignment.

M. Kennedy reported on the timeline of project, with a proposed public meeting to be scheduled in the summer of 2019 and construction taking place between 2022-2023. L. Black asked about public meeting notes, and M. Kennedy directed her to the NHDOT project website.

L. Black asked R. Stephenson if he had anything else to add or ask, and R. Stephenson explained he had a running list of comments or questions as follows:

- Acknowledged that the town should have concurrent projects
- Reiterated concerns with bridge design
- Referred to the crossing at Hanover
- Recommended that “the lower the bridge the better”
- Asked about including lighting in the project

J. Hilton addressed the comment regarding bridge design, in relation to the bridge elevation and massing. M. Kennedy reiterated that it is still too early to talk about specific bridge design.

L Black emphasized concerns on all types of effects, *not just physical*, (views, traffic, noise, etc.) and requested “aids” to understand these effects better. VHB agreed that renderings/sims could be produced for the next meeting from several vantage points within the district.

Conclusions:

VHB, for the next meeting, will create an Individual Inventory form and NR evaluation for 21 River Street, provide photographs for 19 River Street, and create renderings/visual sims for the basic bridge and intersection design.

Submitted by: Sheila Charles and Jill Edelman, Cultural Resources

New Hampshire Department of Transportation Cultural Resources Agency Coordination Meeting

Date April 11, 2019

Please initial next to your name. Guests: Please use reverse side to sign in.

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