

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BUREAU OF HIGHWAY DESIGN**

MEETING SUMMARY

PROJECT: NASHUA-MERRIMACK-BEDFORD 13761B
F.E. Everett Turnpike Corridor Widening Project
Baboosic Lake Road and Wire Road Bridge Replacements

DATE OF MEETING: February 13, 2024

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: Matthew Thornton Room
6 Baboosic Lake Road, Merrimack, NH

ATTENDED BY PROJECT TEAM:

NHDOT
Wendy Johnson
Dan Prehemo
Wayne Brooks
Dena Rae

MJ Team
Brian Colburn
Brian Patinkas
Chris Gagne

GENERAL PUBLIC:

Twenty-three people signed in. Several other people attended but did not sign in (see attached sign-in sheets)

SUBJECT: Public Informational Meeting

NOTES ON MEETING:

The meeting consisted of an Open House from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM with a Formal Presentation at 7:00 PM. The presentation is attached and a summary of the presentation along with comments is below. Video recording of the meeting is available at [NH Department of Transportation Public Information Meeting: February 15, 2024 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZWZpyg3Tzg\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZWZpyg3Tzg).

Wendy Johnson opened the public meeting presentation at 7:00 PM by introducing the project team. She also described the overall FEET corridor widening as noted: The F.E. Everett Turnpike (FEET) project involves widening three segments of the Turnpike from two lanes to three lanes in each direction. This will consist of at least five different construction contracts. Five bridges will be either replaced or rehabilitated. The interchanges at Exit 10, Exit 11, and Exit 12 will be modified to accommodate the final removal of the toll plazas. Overall, the 13761 projects will cost an estimated total of \$254,229,000. This project is necessary to reduce congestion along the corridor and improve safety while also improving existing bridges and sign structures.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the 13761B project in more detail. This project is estimated to cost \$22,503,000 and must be completed before the Turnpike can be widened. This project includes the replacement of both the Baboosic Lake Road and Wire Road overpass bridges and associated roadway approach work. There will also be an improvement to bicycle and pedestrian facilities on Baboosic Lake Road and Wire Road as part of the bridge replacements.

Wendy Johnson then introduced Brian Colburn of McFarland-Johnson who described the 13761B project, highlighting the following details: The Baboosic Lake Road Bridge is currently on the Department of Transportation's "Red List" and needs to be replaced. It is proposed to be replaced on the existing roadway alignment. Sidewalks will be included on both sides of the road and the shoulders will be widened to five feet. Stormwater treatment will also be provided at the northeast corner of the bridge. The proposed bridge structure will consist of a single span of 130'-6". The existing piers will be removed to allow for the turnpike widening. Traffic control will consist of three phases. The first phase of construction will construct a temporary bridge to the south of the existing bridge and temporarily relocate utilities. Phase two of construction will move traffic and pedestrians to the temporary bridge. During this phase the new bridge will be constructed. The final phase will move traffic to the new bridge and complete any remaining cleanup work. Utilities will be moved to the new bridge at this time. Flaggers and alternating one-way traffic will be utilized during off-peak hours as needed. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring or summer of 2025 and finish in the fall of 2026 or spring of 2027.

The Wire Road bridge is currently in fair condition and needs to be replaced. It is proposed to be replaced to the north of the existing bridge. A sidewalk will be included on the northern side of the road and the shoulders will be widened to five feet. Stormwater treatment will be provided at the northwestern and southeastern corners of the bridge. The proposed bridge structure will consist of a single span of 150'-0". This bridge is longer than Baboosic Lake Road due to the skew of the roadway to the Turnpike below. The existing piers will be removed to allow for the turnpike widening. Traffic control will consist of three phases. The first phase of construction will construct the proposed bridge as well as a retaining wall along Baboosic Brook. Phase two of construction will move traffic and pedestrians to the new bridge. During this phase the utilities will be moved to the new bridge. The final phase will complete any remaining cleanup work and remove the existing bridge. Flaggers and alternating one-way traffic will be utilized during off-peak hours as needed. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring or summer of 2025 and finish in the fall of 2026 or spring of 2027.

Traffic impacts to the F.E. Everett Turnpike will be minor. There will be lane shifts and some nighttime closures and rolling roadblocks used. This will be necessary when placing proposed beams and doing drainage work. Advanced notice will be posted by NHDOT to make the public aware.

Wendy Johnson introduced Dena Rae of the NHDOT Bureau of ROW who described the ROW process as noted: As part of this project there will be right-of-way impacts. The right-of-way acquisition process consists of several steps. The first step involves NHDOT evaluating the impacts and assigning an appraiser to come up with the estimated value. Next an agent will go and meet with the affected property owners to present the appraisal. After this, the negotiations can begin. If no agreement can be made, then the condemnation process may be used.

Wendy Johnson noted that there were several ongoing elements needed prior to advertising the project for bids, these include environmental permits that need to be submitted and approved. This

includes a shoreland permit due to the proximity of Baboosic Brook to Wire Road, a wetland permit, and stormwater compliance.

Wendy Johnson then opened up the meeting for public comments and questions.

Below are the public comments received at the meeting.

Finlay Rothhaus, 14 Kittridge Lane - Asked if additional lanes could be provided on Baboosic Lake Road in both directions near O’Gara Drive. There are events that cause significant backups trying to get in and out of the schools. *Response: This improvement is outside the scope of the Turnpike Widening project. During the environmental review phase of the project, it was determined that impacts to the Merrimack School District property should be minimized due to its 6(F) status.*

Malcolm Paradise, 18 Drake Lane – Commented on the backups occurring on Baboosic Lake Road near O’Gara Drive. *Response: See previous response.*

Mark Epstein, 15 Wire Road – Asked if temporary easements go away after construction. *Response: W. Johnson responded that temporary construction easements go away at the end of construction.*

Nelson Disco, Chairman of Town Center Committee – Commented that this project will be a benefit to the town as it will create a more walkable area with the sidewalk additions.

Paul Micali, Merrimack Town Manager – Asked who is responsible for maintaining the large grass areas left after the temporary Baboosic Lake Road bridge and existing Wire Road bridge are removed. *Response: W. Johnson responded that the state will let those areas grow and go back to their normal state.*

Below are the public comments received during the open house.

58 Baboosic Lake Road – Commented that there is a pin in their driveway that will be impacted by construction. They want to be sure this will be reset at the end of construction. *Response: The contractor will reset this pin if it is disturbed by construction.*

53 Baboosic Lake Road – Expressed concern about the amount of tree clearing near their house. They will be able to see the highway once construction is complete. *Response: The tree clearing is necessary to build the proposed road and is within the state’s right-of-way. NHDOT will review the tree clearing limits and determine if they can be reduced.*

Several residents asked if ramps accessing the Turnpike at both Baboosic Lake Road and Wire Road would be provided as part of this project. *Response: This is outside the scope of this project.*

Anonymous resident – Expressed concern with the current layout of the Wire Road and McGaw Bridge Road intersection. The angle of the intersection limits sight distance and makes the turning movements difficult. *Response: Reconfiguring this intersection is outside the scope of the Turnpike widening project.*

Mark Epstein – Has concerns about the existing rocks along the roadway and would like to see them reset at the end of construction. He then asked that an extra driveway to his grass field and a privacy fence be added to the design. He also wants to keep the large maple tree at 3721+25, LT. *Response: If this property is impacted, NHDOT will need coordinate with the Town and the Owner through the right-of-way acquisition process. Typically NHDOT would not install a privacy fence.*

Mark Epstein – Requested a traffic signal at the intersection of Wire Road and McGaw Bridge Road. *Response: A traffic signal will not be installed at this intersection as it is outside the scope of the Turnpike Widening project.*

16 Wire Road – Asked if a small retaining wall could be built at the property line to keep their lawn flatter around 3721+00 RT. *Response: This project will not construct a retaining wall in this location.*

19 Wire Road – M92 has new owners. It is owned by 19 Wire Road LLC. *Response: The plans will be updated to reflect this.*

Anonymous resident – Asked if the bridges leave enough space for 4 lanes of traffic on the F.E. Everet Turnpike. *Response: The bridges will only accommodate three lanes in each direction.*

Anonymous resident – Requested a second sidewalk on Wire Road. *Response: Sidewalk on both sides of Wire Road was found to not be feasible due to right-of-way constraints, environmental constraints and sidewalk connectivity/continuity.*

Anonymous resident – Asked why the proposed sidewalk isn't located on the south side of Wire Road. *Response: NHDOT will coordinate with the Town of Merrimack to ensure the north side of the road is the desired side for the sidewalk.*

Anonymous resident – Asked if the soundwalls were still going to be constructed. *Response: Yes, they will be built under the 13761C project in a few years simultaneous with the widening on the FEET. The 13761B bridge replacements need to be constructed first to allow room for the widened FEET.*

Anonymous resident – Asked what material the soundwalls would be made of after seeing the new concrete soundwalls being constructed at the Exit 4A project. *Response: The new soundwalls along the FEET will be made of concrete.*

Representative Wendy Thomas and Merrimack Town Manager Paul Micali – Both asked if there were going to be any added emergency access points to the FEET as part of this (13761B) project. *Response: W. Johnson mentioned there are no emergency access points being installed as a part of the 13761B project.*

Following the meeting, NHDOT coordinated with the Town of Merrimack and the Town confirmed that the sidewalk on Wire Road should be located on the north side of the roadway.

Submitted By:



Brian Patinskas, P.E.

ATTACHMENTS:

Presentation

List of Attendees

***F.E. Everett Turnpike (FEET) Widening
Nashua-Merrimack-Bedford 13761***

**Public Informational
Meeting – 13761B
Merrimack**

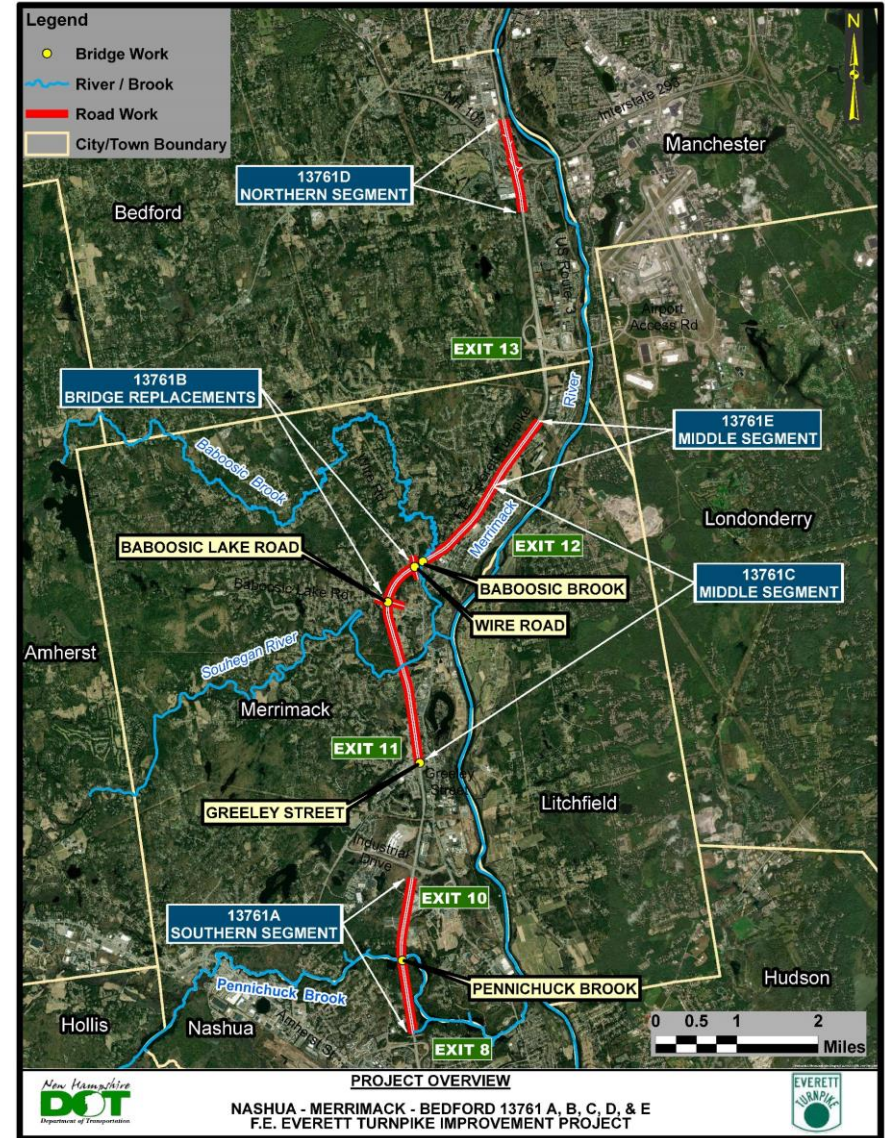
February 13, 2024

Agenda

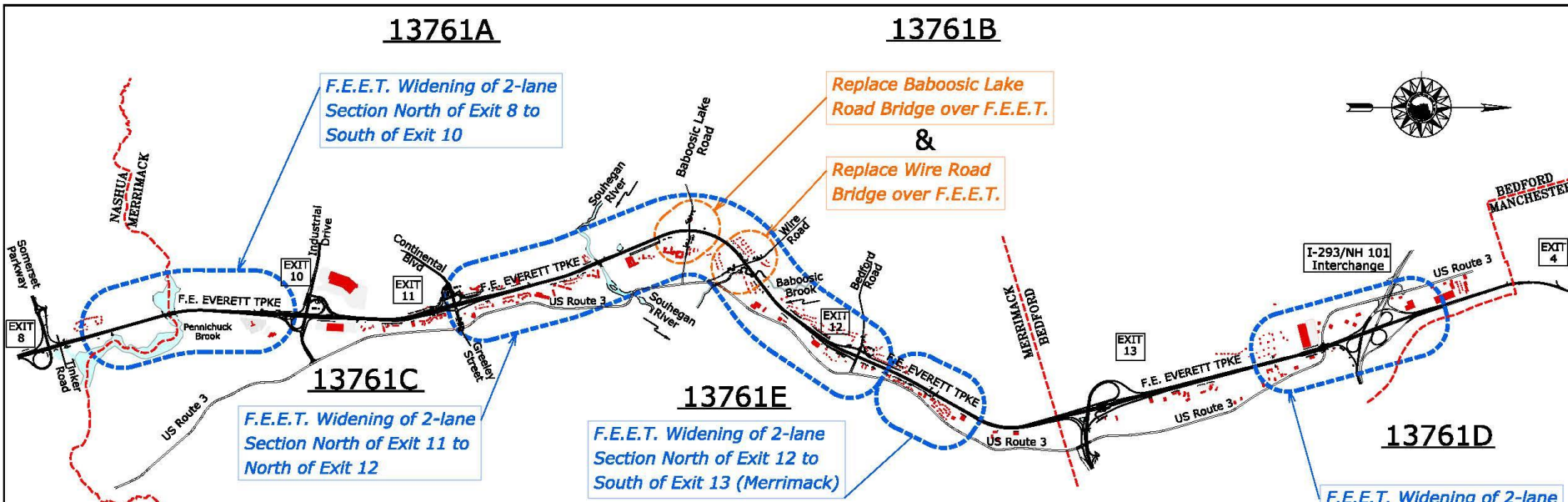
1. Overview
2. Need
3. Baboosic Lake Road Bridge & Wire Road Bridge (13761B) Project Details
4. Right-of-Way Process
5. Schedule
6. Questions and Comments

Overview

- Widening to Three Lanes in Each Direction
- Three Segments
- At Least Five Construction Projects
- Five Bridges Replaced / Rehabilitated
- Interchange Modifications to Finish Removal of Ramp Toll Plazas



Overview



Construction Schedule / Project Breakouts

Project	Status	Designer/ Contractor	Description	ADV. DATE	EST. Cost	CONST.
13761A	Design	VHB	F.E.E.T. Widening of 2-lane North of Exit 8 (Nashua) to south of Exit 10 (Merrimack); Relace Pennichuck Brook Bridge	03-05-2024	\$35,613,000	2024
13761B	Design	MJ	Replace Wire Road and Baboosic Lake Road Bridges over the F.E.E.T (Merrimack)	10-29-2024	\$22,503,000	2025
13761C	Design	MJ	F.E.E.T. Widening of 2-lane section North of Exit 11 to north of Exit 12 (Merrimack)	04-29-2025	\$124,772,000	2025
13761D	Construction	CHA / AJ Coleman	F.E.E.T. Widening of 2-lane section North of Exit 13 (Merrimack) to Nouth of I-293 Diverge (Bedford)	01-18-2022	\$22,068,000	2022
13761E	Construction	MJ / RS Audley	F.E.E.T. Widening of 2-lane section North of Exit 12 to south of Exit 13 (Merrimack)	02-28-2023	\$23,109,000	2023
13761	Design	-	PE & ROW		\$26,164,000	
			Total		\$254,229,000	



Need – FEET

- Improve Mobility
- Congestion Relief
- Improve Safety
- Improve Bridges and Structures



Congestion Along the FEET

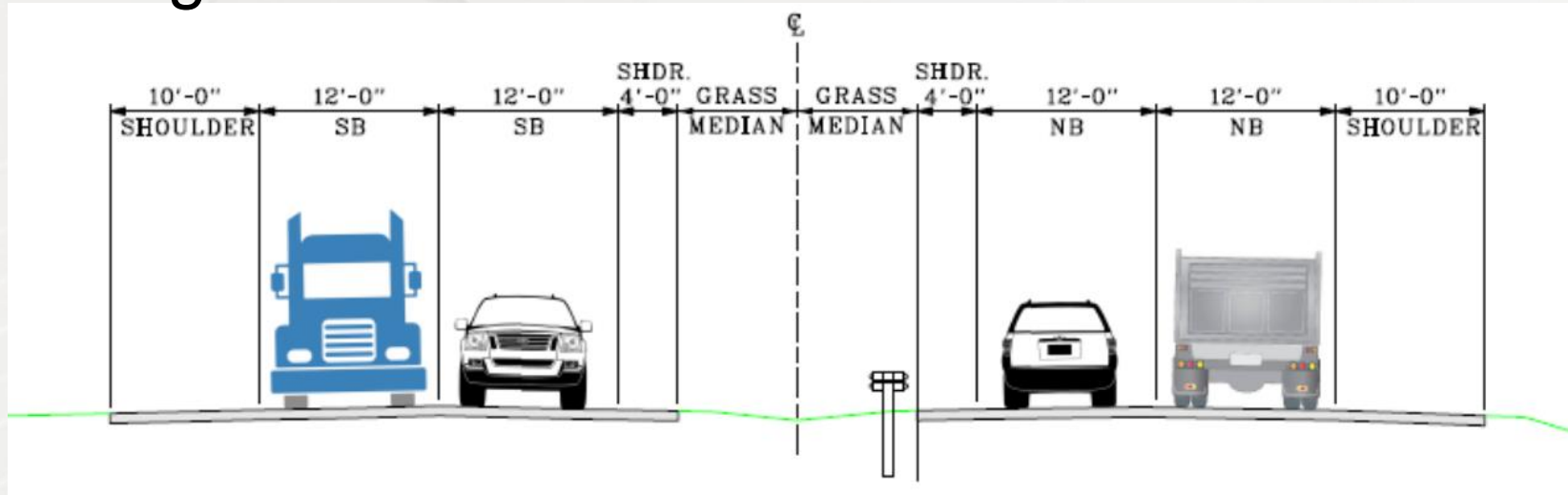
Need – 13761B

- Overpass Bridge Project (13761B) Needs to be Completed Before Turnpike Widening Can be Completed Below
- Improve Bike/Ped Facilities on Wire Road and Baboosic Lake Road

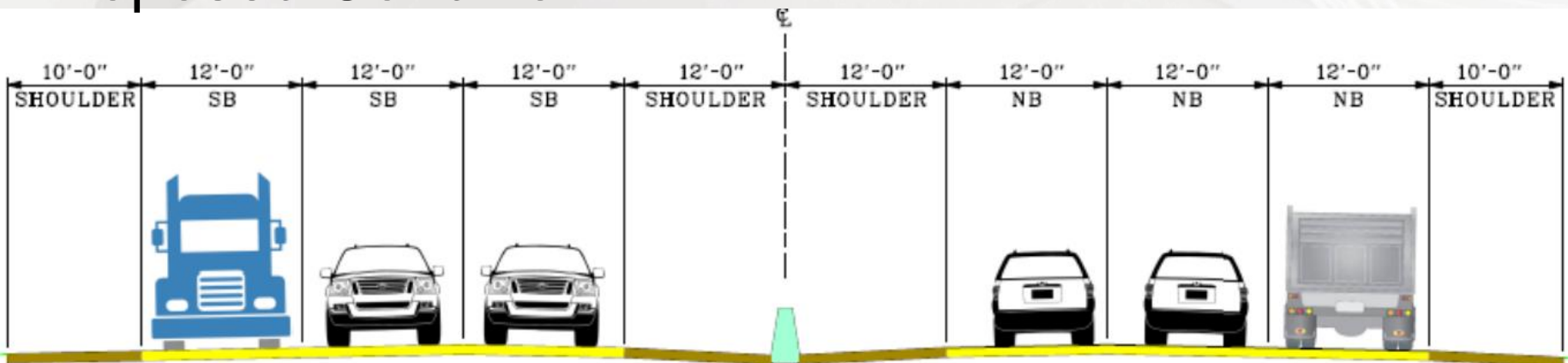


Increased Capacity

Existing Condition



Proposed Condition



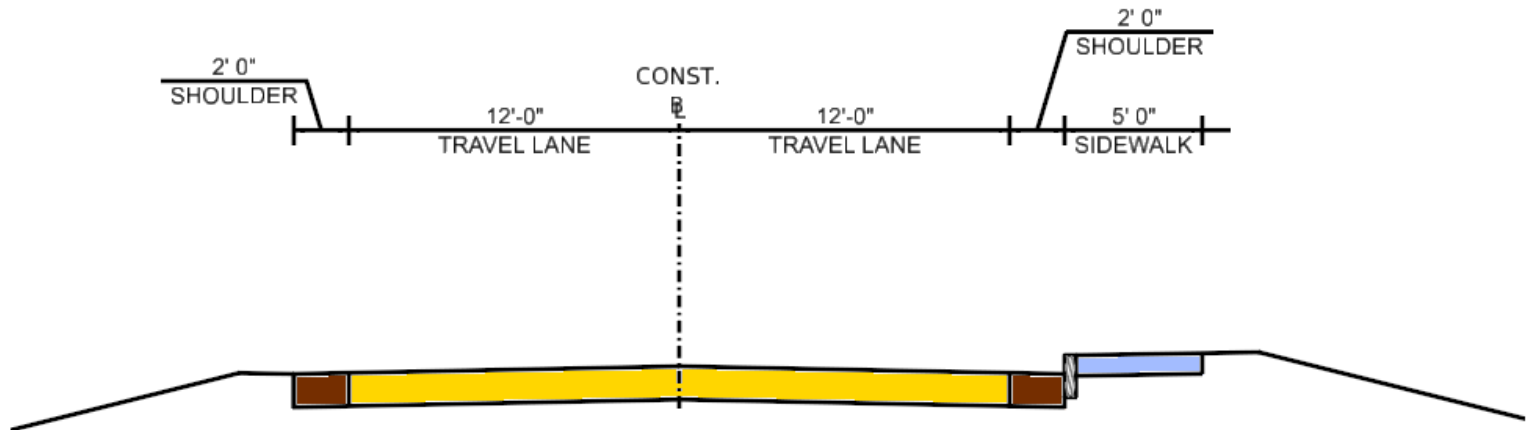
Baboosic Lake Road

- Replace Existing “Red List” Bridge
- On Existing Alignment
- New Sidewalks on Both Sides of Road from Rose Lane to O’Gara Drive
- Stormwater Treatment

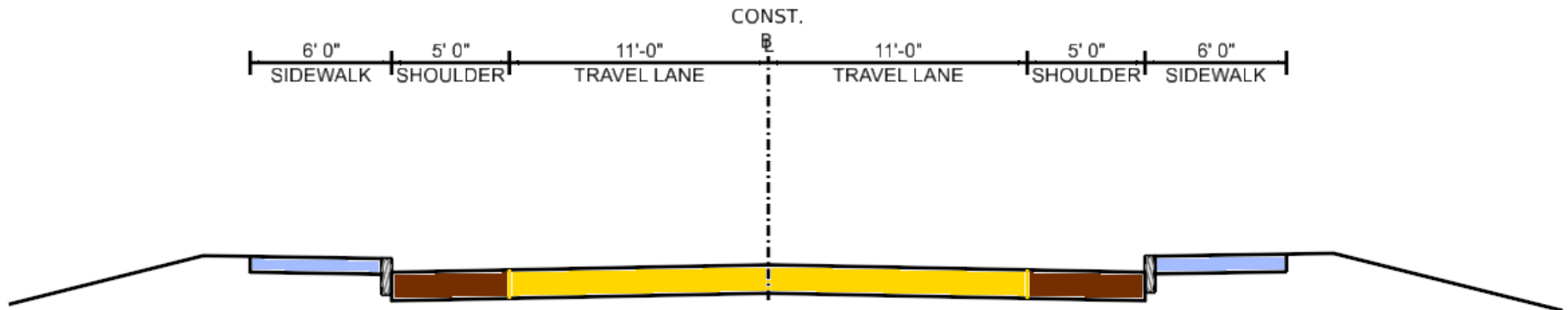


Existing 4-Span Bridge

Baboosic Lake Road



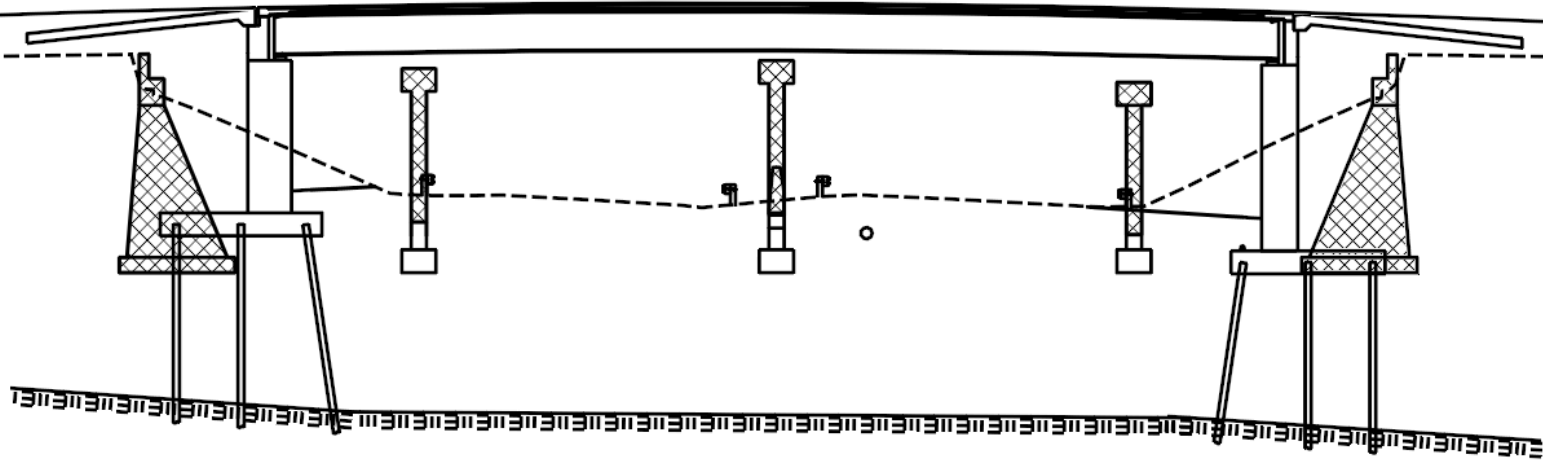
Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Baboosic Lake Road

Proposed 130'-6" Single Span Bridge



Proposed Condition

Baboosic Lake Road Traffic Control

- Phase 1 – (Spring – Summer 2025)
 - Construct Temporary Bridge
 - Traffic Maintained on Existing Bridge
 - Pedestrians on Existing Sidewalk
- Utility Relocations Required to Remove Utilities from Existing Bridge

Baboosic Lake Road Traffic Control

- Phase 2 – (Fall 2025 – Summer 2026)
 - Traffic and Pedestrians Maintained on Temporary Bridge
 - Construct New Bridge

Baboosic Lake Road Traffic Control

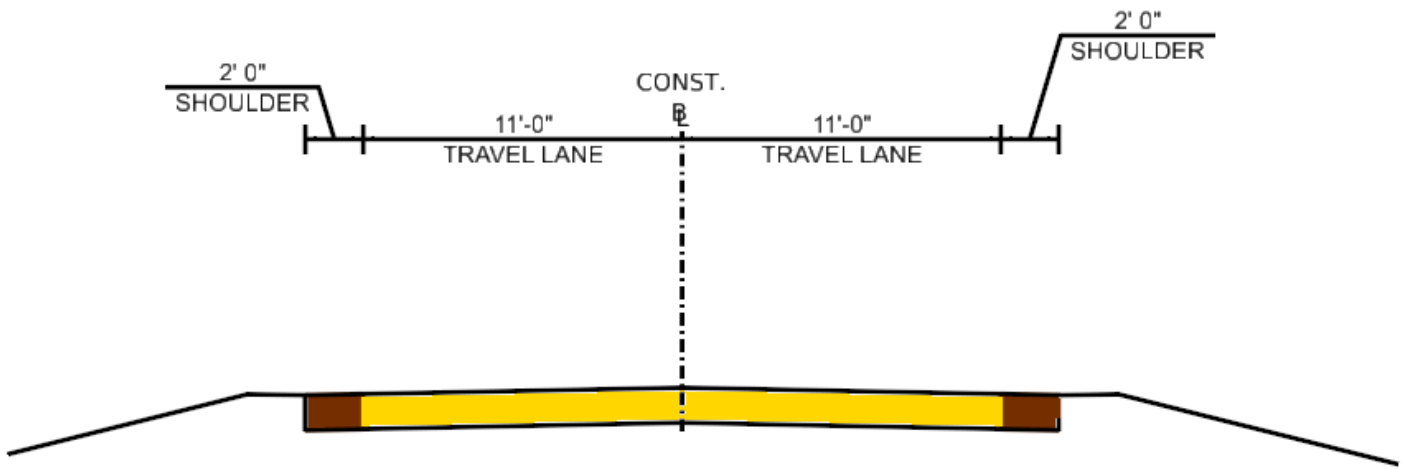
- Phase 3 – (Fall 2026)
 - Traffic Placed on New Bridge
 - Pedestrians on Northern Sidewalk
 - Project Cleanup Work
- Utility Relocations Required to Place Utilities Onto New Bridge

Wire Road

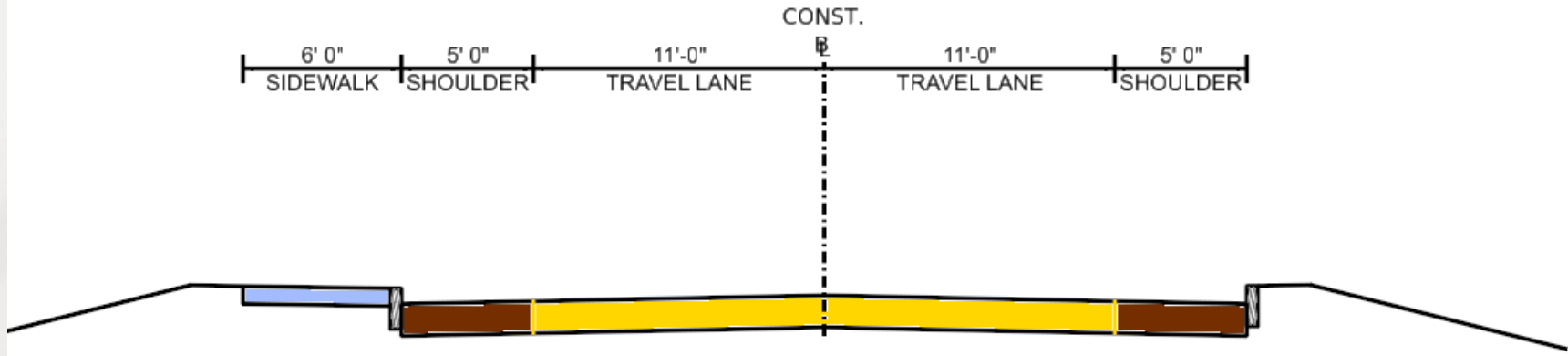
- Replace Existing “Red List” Bridge
- Alignment Shifted to the North
- New Sidewalks on North Side of Road Within Project Limits
- Stormwater Treatment



Wire Road



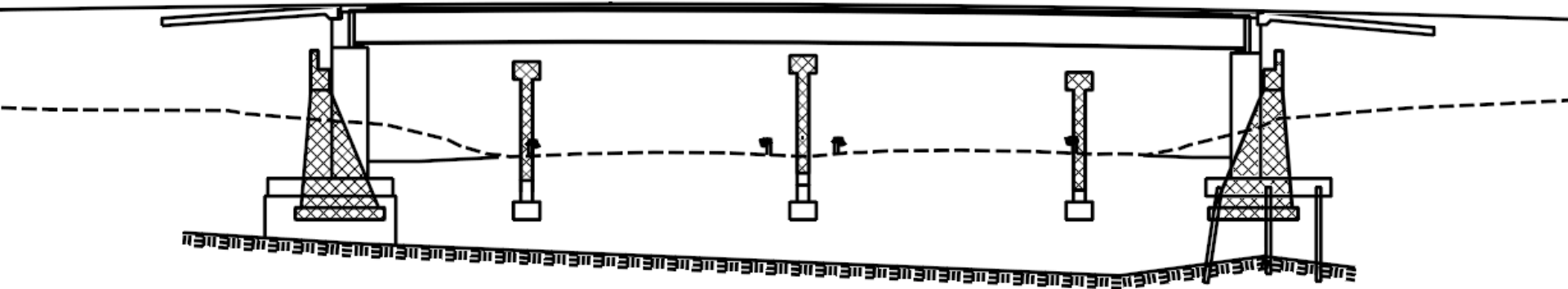
Existing Condition



Proposed Condition

Wire Road

Proposed 150'-0" Single Span Bridge



Proposed Condition

Wire Road Traffic Control

- Phase 1 - (Spring 2025 to Spring 2026)
 - Construct New Bridge
 - Traffic Maintained on Existing Bridge



New Bridge

Existing Bridge

Wire Road Traffic Control

- Phase 2 - (Summer 2026)
 - Traffic and Pedestrians on New Bridge
 - Project Tie In Work
- Utility Relocations Required to Relocate Utilities from Old Bridge Onto New Bridge

Wire Road Traffic Control

- Phase 3 – (Fall 2026)
 - Remove Old Bridge
 - Project Cleanup Work

F.E. Everett Turnpike Traffic Control

- Spring 2025 – Fall 2026
 - Drainage Reconstruction
 - Existing Bridge Pier and Abutment Removal
- Lane Shifts Required
- Nighttime Lanes Closures and Rolling Roadblocks on FEET For Some Operations

Right-of-Way Process

- Create Property Impact Plans
- Prepare Appraisals
- NHDOT ROW Agents Will Contact Property Owners to Discuss Offer Packages

Schedule

- Final Design
 - Spring 2024 Through Fall 2024
- ROW Acquisition
 - Spring 2024 Through Fall 2024
- Environmental Permitting
 - Summer 2024
- Project is Solicited for Bid
 - Fall 2024
- Construction
 - Spring 2025 Through Fall 2026

Questions / Comments

Project Contact:

Wendy Johnson, PE

NHDOT Project Manager

Wendy.A.Johnson@dot.nh.gov

www.everettturnpikewidening.com

**F.E. Everett Turnpike Widening Project
Nashua-Merrimack-Bedford 13761**

Public Informational Meeting
13761B – Merrimack
February 13, 2024

SIGN IN SHEET

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Paul Tyler			
Rebecca Gauthorp			
Pat Merchant			
Sheryl Stitsel			
Wendy Thomas			
Kristen + Joe Larodie			
Nancy Hexington			
Nancy Murphy			
Chris Conway			
Steve Deben			

**F.E. Everett Turnpike Widening Project
Nashua-Merrimack-Bedford 13761**

Public Informational Meeting
13761B – Merrimack
February 13, 2024

SIGN IN SHEET

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
DICK PETERSON			
DAWN TUOMALA			
Leo Laviolette			
Diane Donahue			
SEAN DONAHUE			
Malcolm Paradise			
PAUL MICALI			
MARK DiFronzo			
Tom Kozniq			
Phillip Gault			
Megan Brown			
Nelson Disco			
Susan Flaherty			