



## Quechee Gorge Bridge Public Meeting

**Location: Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction**

**Date and Time: July 27, 2023, 6:00 PM**

### Background / Introductions

The public gathered at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, July 27, 2023, in Hartford Town Hall in White River Junction. Eleven (11) members of the public signed in to attend the meeting. Nineteen members of the public attended the public meeting virtually.

Marcy Miller, of FHI Studio, opened the presentation and greeted the attendees. She said that the meeting was being recorded and there were participants online via webinar format who may ask questions as well. She introduced representatives from the project team including Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) project manager JB McCarthy, VTrans engineer Tom Chase, Amy Spera of Gill Engineering, Nick Campbell of FHI Studio, and Greg Domermuth of Harrison & Burrowes Bridge Constructors, Inc.

### Presentation

M. Miller presented the agenda for the meeting which included:

1. Introductions
2. Project Overview
  - Plan Requirements
  - Contract Specifications
3. Project Schedule
  - Traffic Control
  - Major Activities
4. Discussion

JB McCarthy, of VTrans, presented a project overview. He described the existing bridge cross section with four-foot shoulders and 11-foot lanes, noting that the width is 30 feet curb to curb. Phase 1 is expected to begin next year in 2024 with construction happening on the south side of the bridge and replacing part of the deck with a new safety fence. Phase 2 will include similar work on the north side. Final construction will include new six-foot sidewalks with new safety fences.

A key improvement will be the sidewalk system and the connectivity that it will create. The new sidewalks will connect from the bridge to the shops, visitors center, and parking area on the west side.

J. McCarthy discussed the project schedule. He stated that the plans were ready in 2020 and progress was delayed because of COVID-19. The project went out to bid in September 2021 and September 2022. J. McCarthy described the construction sequencing, which will start in Summer 2023. Work will include cleaning and painting structural steel in 2023, sidewalk reconstruction in 2024-2025, and site cleanup in

2026. J. McCarthy discussed traffic control during the construction phases. The south side will be closed first allowing travel on the north side with alternating traffic starting in August 2023 through November 2023 and April 2024 through November 2024.. J. McCarthy discussed the traffic plan and how it would affect the shops and the visitors center.

### Questions and Comments

#### Recent Flooding

PJ Skeehan, of the Hartford Chamber of Commerce, asked if the project could be put off for another six months due to the recent floodings and the potential impacts this might have on businesses at the shops. M. Miller answered that while the project team understands their concern, the construction team is under contract and has begun mobilizing to the project site.

#### Traffic Concerns

A community member asked if the construction crew could keep two lanes open on the weekends. J. McCarthy answered that the current plan is to have one lane open only.

Several community members expressed concern about diversion traffic during the bridge construction, specifically on and near Dewey's Mills Road.

Community members voiced concern about pedestrian activity in the area, noting it is already dangerous to walk near the visitor's center. M. Miller answered, that throughout construction, if anyone has safety concerns related to traffic and construction, please contact her. She will coordinate directly with J. McCarthy and the resident engineer to answer questions and concerns.

#### Snow Removal

J. McCarthy emphasized the new design and widening of the sidewalks and the importance of snow removal for both the vehicle lanes and safe pedestrian travel along the bridge.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.