



TOWN OF PLAINFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
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November 17th, 2021

Lebanon City Council
51 North Park Street
Lebanon, NH 03766


Re: True Brook closure summer of 2023


Dear Lebanon City Council:

We appreciated Lebanon City Manager Shaun Mulholland's October 29 letter informing us of the 2023 planned five month closure of Trues Brook Road. Lebanon and Plainfield share a common interest in keeping this vital link as accessible as possible. As you know, more than 1,000 cars travel the route daily. While commuter traffic is of interest to us, we are particularly concerned about the effect a roadway closure would have on the ability of emergency services to respond in a timely manner.

The Selectboard of Plainfield is requesting a meeting with the Lebanon City Council in January or February; we have some thoughts about ways the Town of Plainfield may be able to assist in keeping the road open with a temporary bridge. We are happy to come to one of your meetings or to host you in our town hall. Thank you in advance for the opportunity to talk about this issue while there is still time to find a solution that might work for both of our communities. In January we meet on the 5th and the 19th, in February on the 2nd and the 16th.

Thank you


Eric Brann, Chairman


Ron Eberhardt


Amy Lappin



CITY of LEBANON, NH

City Manager's Office
51 North Park Street
Lebanon, NH 03766
(603) 448-4220
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TRUES BROOK ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT UPDATE (NHDOT BRIDGE NO. 066/059 – 500 FEET EAST OF DERBY LANE)

October 29, 2021

Dear Residents and Town of Plainfield Officials,

The purpose of this writing is to update you on the progress of the plans for replacement of the Trues Brook Road Bridge described above and to inform you of the planned closure of the bridge for the duration of the replacement project.

At a site meeting held on June 23, 2021 with area residents, it was stated that replacement of the permanent bridge would include the installation of a temporary bridge to prevent full closure of the road and eliminate the need for a long detour from Route 12A to Meriden Village. Unfortunately, final cost estimates have well exceeded those anticipated by the City and the State for this project.

As previously discussed, the full scope of this project will replace the existing structurally deficient bridge with a new bridge that can safely accommodate all forms of traffic (two 11' wide lanes and two 5' wide shoulders) and will include the reconstruction of approximately 900 feet of Trues Brook Road.

The total project cost was projected at \$2.8 million when the project was originally included in the State's 10-Year Transportation Plan. That amount was reduced to \$2.2 million by the State as part of the 2022/2023 construction cycle. After completion of the preliminary design plans, the City's project engineer has estimated the project at \$4.1 million. Funding for the project is an 80/20 split between the State of NH (80%) and the City of Lebanon (20%). However, the State will only fund 80% of the total included in the current version of the 10-Year Plan (or \$1,760,000). In order for the City to complete the project as proposed, taxpayers would be responsible the remainder of the cost which equals \$2,340,000.

The City is currently working with the State on plans for cost reductions and is seeking additional grant funds to receive a full 80% of the total project cost (\$3,280,000). One of the cost reductions is closing the bridge to traffic and foregoing the placement of a temporary bridge. This measure will reduce the project cost by \$650,000. With this in mind, the City Manager has made the executive decision to close the bridge for the 5 months needed to complete the project. The closure will not take place until the 2023 construction season as the project will be moving through the final design process in 2022.

This decision will directly impact seven (7) Lebanon property owners that are on the Plainfield side of the bridge along with all of those that currently utilize Trues Brook Road as their commute between Meriden Village and Route 12A. We are aware that this will be a great burden and will work diligently to ensure the disruption is as short in duration as possible. In the meantime, we will be scheduling a community conversation to discuss the closure and are asking the Town of Plainfield (when the time comes) to assist us in getting the word out.

If you have questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact City Manager, Shaun Mulholland at Shaun.Mulholland@lebanonnh.gov or City Engineer, Christina Hall at Christina.Hall@lebanonnh.gov

Thank you,

DocuSigned by:

Shaun Mulholland

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Shaun Mulholland, City Manager