

October 23, 2019

Dexter Legg, Chair
Planning Board
1 Junkins Avenue, 3rd Floor
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Re: Portsmouth, #29640

Dear Mr. Legg:

Normandeau is assisting Stantec and the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) with permitting and documentation for maintenance work to expand and revitalize Route 1 (Lafayette Road) in Portsmouth (NHDOT Project: Portsmouth 29640). A location map is enclosed. Anticipated work includes roadway safety and capacity improvements and addition of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Some transportation projects require mitigation for possible wetland/stream impacts. The natural resources in this project area have not yet been identified and investigations are forthcoming. Preliminary engineering studies have begun and the Department will attempt to avoid, and minimize impacts through design before determining if there will be any stream or wetland impacts that may require mitigation. **As a proactive measure the Department would like to request a list of the City's preferred/priority mitigation efforts that the Department may evaluate and consider undertaking if it is determined that the project does in fact require mitigation. Please let us know if your City has identified such priorities.** In the absence of any City priorities to evaluate the Department will pursue permittee responsible mitigation through the Stream Passage Improvement Program (SPIP). If it's determined that no viable options exist through the SPIP, the Department will pursue a payment into the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (ARM Fund), at which time those funds will become competitively available through the ARM fund grant process.

Engineering studies have been initiated to refine the scope and limits of work necessary for this project. The Department's Bureau of Environment is in the process of evaluating the potential environmental impacts associated with the project. To assist in this evaluation, I am asking that you provide comments relative to the project's potential impacts on environmental, social, economic or cultural resources, by responding to the following questions.

1. Does the City have a list of priority mitigation efforts (Top 10 Priority List) that the DOT may evaluate and consider undertaking if it is determined that the project does in fact require mitigation? If so, please provide the list. (e.g. problematic culvert/bridge crossings, land protection, habitat restoration, etc.)
2. Are there any existing or proposed community or regional plans that might have a bearing on this project?

3. Are there any natural resources of significance in the vicinity of the project? (e.g. prime wetlands, floodplains, rare species, etc.) Are there any known wildlife corridors or habitat strongholds in the vicinity of the project?
4. Are there any cultural resources of significance in the vicinity of the project? (e.g. stonewalls, cemeteries, historical or archeological resources, etc.) *Please note that Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act offers those that possess a direct interest in historical resources, including city officials, Historical Societies, and Historical Commissions, an opportunity to become more involved in an advisory role during project development as "Consulting Parties." Those interested should contact the Department.*
5. Are there any public parks, recreation areas, conservation lands, or wildlife/waterfowl refuges in the vicinity of the project? Have Land & Water Conservation Funds been used in the project area?
6. Are there any locally or regionally significant water resources or related protection areas in the project vicinity? (e.g. public water supplies, wellhead protection areas, aquifer protection districts, etc.)
7. Are there any water quality concerns that should be addressed during the development of this project? (e.g. stormwater management, NPDES Phase II, impaired waters, etc.)
8. Are you aware of any existing or potential hazardous materials or contaminants in the vicinity of the project? Are there asbestos landfills or asbestos containing utility pipes located within the project limits?
9. Do you have any environmental concerns not previously noted (e.g. noise impacts, farmland conversion, etc.) that you feel the Department should be aware of for this project?
10. Will the proposed project have a significant effect upon the surrounding area? If so, please explain.
11. Are you aware of any existing roadside populations of non-native invasive plant species (such as Japanese knotweed, phragmites, or purple loosestrife) in the project area?

This letter has been sent to the following departments, boards, and/or commissions:

- Mayor
- City Manager
- Planning Director
- Planning Board
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Department of Public Works
- Conservation Commission
- Historical Society

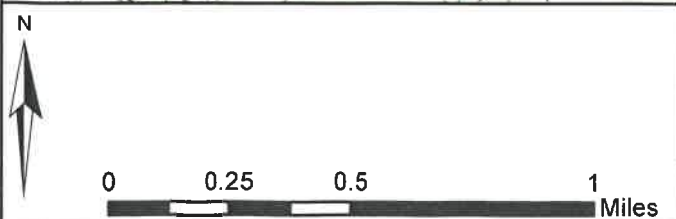
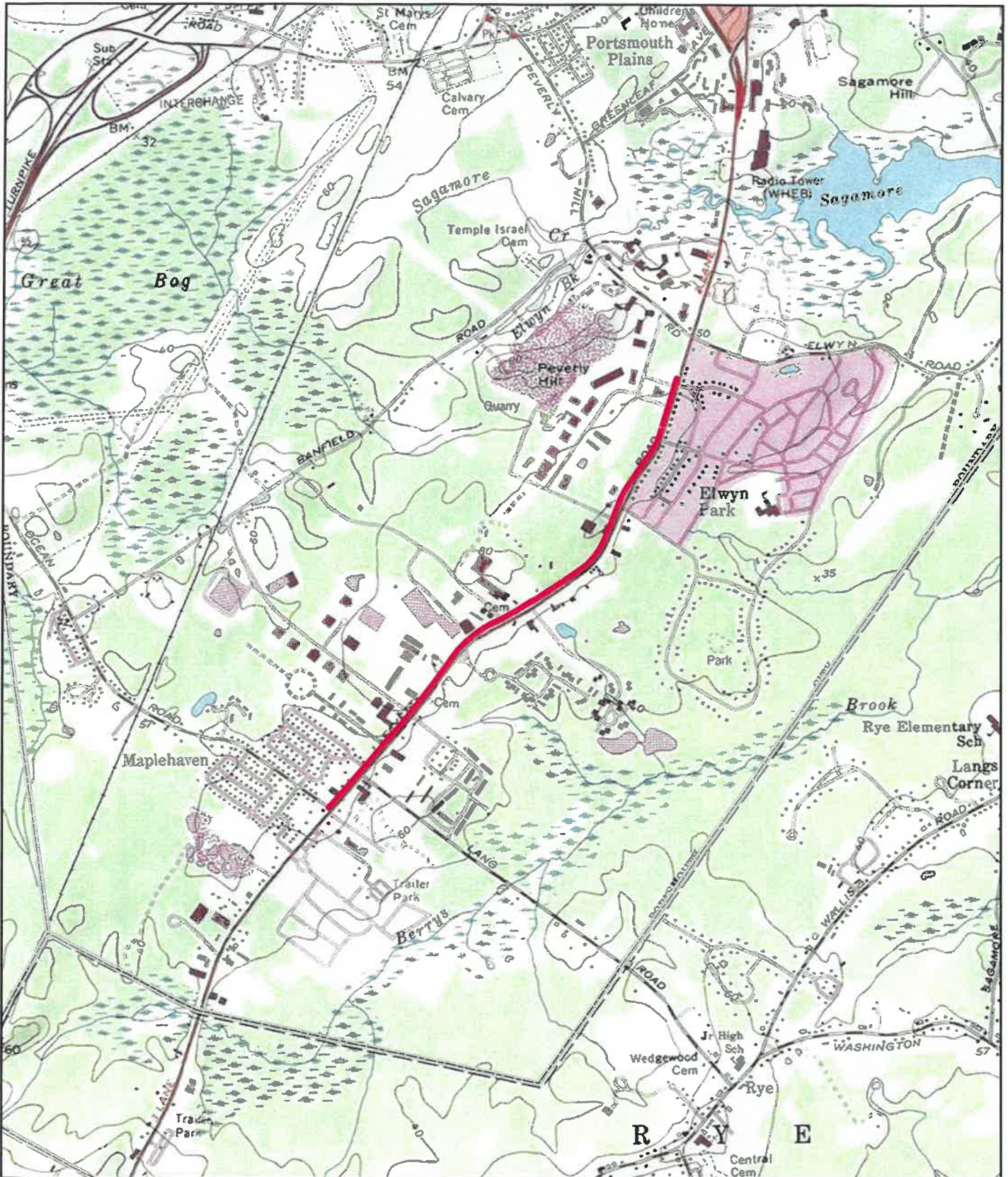
The tentative advertising date for this project is July 2021. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require further information regarding the above referenced project. Thank you for your assistance.



Sincerely,

Lee Carbonneau, PWS, NHCWS
Agent for NH Department of Transportation
603-637-1150
lcarbonneau@normandeau.edu

Encl.



NHDOT #29640
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
US ROUTE 1 IMPROVEMENTS

Date:
 9/18/2019

25 Nashua Road Bedford, NH 03110
 Prepared For: LEC Project: 24307.000 Prepared By: JO