

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)
HAMPTON HARBOR BRIDGE PROJECT
HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**



Summary:

The NHDOT is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Assessment (EA), dated March 2021, has been prepared for the proposed replacement of the Neil R. Underwood Memorial Bridge in the Town of Hampton, New Hampshire [NHDOT # 15904]. The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the NHDOT's guidelines for environmental documents. The 30-day public comment period begins March 24, 2021.

The proposed project, which begins in Seabrook, NH and extends half a mile north into Hampton, NH, involves replacement of the existing bridge with a new fixed bridge structure. The purpose of the project is to provide a safe, reliable, and structurally sound crossing over the Hampton Harbor Inlet, while also improving mobility for the traveling public. This includes drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, as well as maritime users.

The EA can be accessed and downloaded from the project website, <https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/seabrookhampton15904/index.htm> or can be viewed as a hardcopy document at Lane Memorial Library in Hampton, Seabrook Library, and the Hampton and Seabrook Town Halls.

Public Hearing and Comment:

There will be a public hearing to present the findings of the EA and accept comments to be held on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. The Zoom link and telephone call-in information will be posted to the project website (see above). Written comments will be accepted through April 23, 2021. Comments may be submitted in writing or by email to Ms. Jennifer Reczek (see below for contact information) or through the e-mail link on the project website.

For Further Information Contact:

Ms. Jennifer Reczek, NH Department of Transportation, 7 Hazen Drive, PO Box 483, Concord, NH 03301 at (603) 271-3401 or Jennifer.E.Reczek@dot.nh.gov.

Supplementary Information:

The EA evaluated two build alternatives, Replacement with a Fixed Bridge and Replacement with a Bascule Bridge, as well as the No Build Alternative. The preferred alternative would construct a new, 7-span, fixed, steel-girder bridge approximately 75-ft west of the existing bridge. The bridge will have two 11-foot travel lanes, with eight-foot shoulders and six-foot sidewalks on each side. The navigation channel under the bridge will be increased to 150 feet horizontal by 48 feet vertical to accommodate all known users of Seabrook and Hampton Harbors.

Impacts to the natural, cultural, and socio-economic environment are analyzed and presented in the EA. The EA also includes a Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Neil R. Underwood Bridge and a Section 4(f) *de minimis* Section 4(f) finding for the Hampton State Pier.