

NH DOT presents Route 106/Seavey Road plans

By TIM CAMERATO | Apr 29, 2014

2

NH 106 plans



[Enlarge...](#)

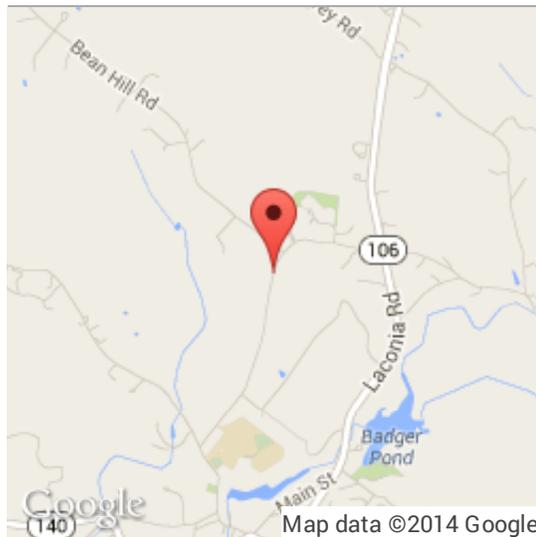
BELMONT — Officials from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation presented their plans to build turn lanes at the Route 106 and Seavey Road intersection during a public hearing at Belmont High School on Tuesday.

DOT Preliminary Design Engineer Nancy Spaulding said that aside from repaving, Route 106 hasn't been changed since it was built in the 1940s. With a 50 mph speed limit on the road and only a stop sign, the intersection can be unsafe for traffic, she said.

“There's been many accidents documented in the area,” Spaulding said.

She said the project will widen the highway to allow for a right turn lane for cars traveling southbound, and a left turn lane for vehicles traveling north. The project will begin about 750 feet south of the intersection and end about 850 feet north.

Other than the repaving of the highway, “the profile of 106 isn't going to be effected,” Spaulding said. She added that they will have to do some slope work on both sides of the road, move back utility



poles, and purchase “slivers” of private property.

Project Manager Michael Dugas said the department receives about \$20 million in funds from the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program that are devoted towards making roads safer. He said money used under the program has to be grounded in data.

Dugas said they're expecting to spend about \$620,000 on the project, paid 100 percent through state and federal funds.

Between 2003 and 2012, 31 crashes were reported near the 106 and Seavey Road intersection, he said.

According to DOT automatic traffic recorder information from October 2007, Route 106 north of Brown Hill Road averages 13,221 cars daily. More recent information from Route 106 in Laconia, south of Pleasant Street, puts the number at 12,872 cars.

NH DOT Wetlands Program Specialist Matt Urban said the project has received input from federal, state, and local officials. He said it will impact wetlands on the Seavey Road side of Route 106.

“This will require work within the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Services and the Army Corps of Engineers,” Urban said.

He said construction will not impact any endangered plants or animals, and will produce better air quality because it will allow cars to move more quickly through the area.

Belmont Town Planner Candace Daigle expressed the town's continued support for the project and said she was appreciative of the increase in safety it will bring.

Police Chief Mark Lewandoski echoed her sentiments. He said the state only has information on reported crashes in the area, but a lot more close calls go unreported.

“I think it's been a long time coming,” Lewandoski said. “This has been a very dangerous intersection — it has been for a long time.”

Jeanne Price expressed concern about the effects of the project on her driveway. Price and her husband own a business on Route 106 across from the intersection that services mobile homes and other large vehicles.

If the road is raised, she said, the vehicles could “bottom out” while trying to get back onto Route 106.

Dugas said work on the driveway wouldn't get into a steep section. They then both agreed to make plans for DOT officials to tour the property with her to inspect the driveway.

Frank Sweeney, of 10 Seavey Road, asked why the department wasn't considering installing a light at the intersection. He said a stop sign would make it difficult for cars to turn from Seavey Road onto Route 106 northbound.

Dugas said the traffic volume that they've recorded doesn't “justify installing traffic signals.”

Dan Camire, of 25 Seavey Road, asked why work wasn't being done to regrade the road to give cars traveling northbound more visibility.

“They come up over the hill and they can't see what's coming out of Seavey Road,” Camire said.

Dugas said it's a big undertaking to regrade the road and they don't find it necessary, as long as cars are following the speed limit.

“We find that the shape of the road is adequate for the posted speed,” Dugas said.

Members of the public have 10 days to submit materials and statements to Anthony Giunta, the project's chairperson, Anthony Giunta, at the Department of Transportation, PO Box 483, Concord, NH to be included in the official record.

The project will occur at the same time as repaving of Route 106 in Belmont and is tentatively scheduled to begin advertising for bids on April 1, 2016.



Comments (0)

Staff Profile

<p>Tim Camerato Reporter 603-581-1962 Email Me</p>
--

Recent Stories by Tim Camerato

- **Gilford to build two 'Little Free Libraries'**
Apr 30, 2014
- **NH DOT presents Route 106/Seavey Road plans**
Apr 29, 2014
- **Despite cold winter, hunters expecting strong turkey season**
Apr 29, 2014
- **Rite Aid staff saves woman from being scammed**
Apr 28, 2014
- **Gilford Police Log**
Apr 28, 2014