



January 4, 2021

NHPWA NEWS

New Hampshire Public Works Association Newsletter

President's Message

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works, Nashua, NH

Dear NHPWA members,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the new year. 2020 was certainly a challenging year we will never forget. Wearing a mask, sanitizing and social distancing have become a normal part of our daily routine. For many of us it has also been a time of isolation and restricted social activities. I think we are all looking forward to starting a new chapter in 2021.

There was an upside to 2020 especially for Public Works. This pandemic has shown how strong and resilient we are as Public Works professionals. Many of us continued to do our jobs and provide services in our communities without missing a beat. We understand the impact of our work on our residents and take it seriously. Our value as first responders has never been more evident than at this point in time. We need to further our crusade to be fully recognized as first responders. We need to tell the story of the value of our work, and the importance of strong infrastructure. We need to do this together with a unified voice.

Through the NHPWA we will continue to promote the importance of Public Works in our communities and state. The infrastructure in the State of NH depends on you. Thanks for all you do. Stay tuned for newsletters and some great educational opportunities in the spring. My very best wishes for a year filled with happiness, health and peace.

Warm Regards, Lisa

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NHDOT UPDATE

Facts, Figures, and Going Forward - State Bridge Aid Program

By C.R. Willeke, NHDOT Municipal Highways Engineer



Webster Clothespin Bridge scheduled for replacement in 2023

Facts

In 1993 the legislature established the State Bridge Aid (SBA) program to assist municipalities in rehabilitating or replacing local bridges. RSA Chapter 234 and Administrative Rules TRA 501 describe the rules and policies of the SBA program. Bridge aid projects are currently locally managed and typically funded with 80% SBA funds and a 20% local match. Currently the SBA program is funded with Senate Bill 367 funds at \$6.8 million per year. This effectively becomes an \$8.5 million per year program when including the 20% local match.

Figures

There are currently 109 projects in the SBA program including 18 projects enrolled but not yet actively incurring expenses, 7 projects in the process of selecting a design firm, 42 projects in design, 25 projects in construction, 5 projects in the close out process, and 12 projects recently completed and reimbursed with bridge aid funds.

Thirteen projects in eleven municipalities were advertised for construction in FY2020 totaling \$23.7 million including: Barnstead, Bow, Bradford, Concord, Franconia, Hill, Laconia, Manchester, Milford, Ossipee, and Windham. Twelve projects in eleven municipalities were completed and reimbursed in FY2020 totaling \$9.8 million including: Amherst, Barrington, Bedford, Berlin, Derry, Gilmanston, Gorham, Hooksett, Milford, Newport, and Thornton.

Going Forward

With the 109 projects listed above and the balance of funds in the SBA program, available funding is committed thru State fiscal year 2028. Since 2018, no new projects have been enrolled in the program. The Department plans to begin enrolling additional projects as part of the upcoming 2023 to 2032 Ten Year Plan process. Projects selected for funding would be programmed in years 2029 thru 2032 at the approved level of funding provided by the legislature, currently \$6.8 million per year (\$8.5 million including the local match).

A new solicitation process is currently being developed to assist in the selection of projects. With over 250 red list municipal bridges statewide, the number of bridges needing improvement outweighs the available funding. Therefore, a ranking process is being developed that uses NHDOT bridge inspection data gathered for each municipal bridge to rank bridges based primarily on bridge condition with other factors to help select the bridges with the most need to be improved.

Similar to other NHDOT funding programs, a statewide solicitation process will be broadcast to municipalities to request applications for bridge aid. The applications will be reviewed for applicability, ranked, and selected to match the available funding within the ten-year plan. The NHDOT hopes to begin this solicitation process in the winter of 2020/2021.

Public Workers are First Responders

By Scott Kinmond, Past-President NHPWA, Administrator, Town of New Durham

Following the September 11, 2001 attacks, in 2003 then President George W. Bush, through a Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD-8), declared that:

“The term “first responder” refers to those individuals who in the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers as defined in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101), as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel (such as equipment operators) that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations.”



While public works is charged with different duties during emergency situations than are police, firefighters, and emergency services personnel; our skills, tools and professional experiences complement those of our first-responder partners. We all know that our partners would have great difficulty getting to an emergency scene if the roads have not been cleared of snow, ice or debris.

Public Works has an extensive history in the state of New Hampshire. In the rapidly changing late 19th century, the Manchester street commission worked with horses and carriages to improve infrastructure. Since then, New Hampshire has seen many changes, but Public Works employees continue to dedicate their service despite inherent risk.

On June 15, 2009, Governor Lynch signed into law RSA 4:9 establishing a committee to oversee the design, construction, and maintenance of a Memorial for public works employees who have died performing duties on behalf of a municipality, a county, or the state. Read a copy of the Legislation. The committee selected a site for the memorial on the grounds of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation Building at 7 Hazen Drive in Concord in August of 2009.

From September 2010 to December of 2010, high school seniors and college students were invited to submit designs for the memorial. The design of Kelsie Lee, from Colby Sawyer College, was selected in early 2011 and Landscape Architect Cheri Ruane prepared detailed drawings. The memorial was dedicated and opened to the public on Wednesday, June 5, 2019.

During the 2019-2020 Legislative session, the New Hampshire Public Works Association supported a bill HB 1494 – public employee labor rights . HB 1494 establishes a death benefit for some public works employees killed at work. The Senate added several other bills related to public employees and unions. For example, HB 1494 now establishes an occupational safety and health advisory board. Unfortunately due the legislature adding several other labor and union riders, it caused Governor Sununu to veto the bill. The NHPWA Legislative subcommittee is working with local lawmakers and local government affiliates towards a bill to recognize Public Works employees as first responder, and have a line of duty death benefit.

In May of 2019, the United States Senate passed and signed Concurrent Resolution 15 to designate October 28 as an annual day to honor the 4.6 career and volunteer professionals as “First Responders Day”. The resolution clearly identifies First Responders as Law Enforcement, Fire and Rescue Services, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management, and Public Works.

During our recent pandemic, it has been unfortunate that our Governor has not included public works as essential workers. The NHPWA Board is continuing to work with our Legislature to elevate the recognition of public workers. The Board plans to engage with other professional associations to develop legislation that acknowledges public works as the critical “First Responder”.

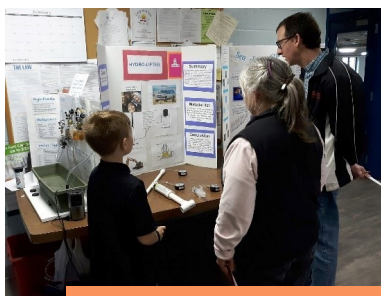
Advocacy—A Simple How To?

By Kürt Blomquist, Public Works Director, City of Keene

In my time in Public Works what I have often heard Public Works professional say, “people do not know what we do.” There has been, and still is, a general feeling that Public Works is not as supported or understood as other professionals. To gain support or interest requires advocacy. Advocacy is committing time and resources and talking to people outside their circles about what they do and why. Who better to advocate than the people who do the work. Public Works professionals are doers. To gain support for the people and programs of Public Works requires us to move through the uncomfortableness and become advocates. So what can you do?

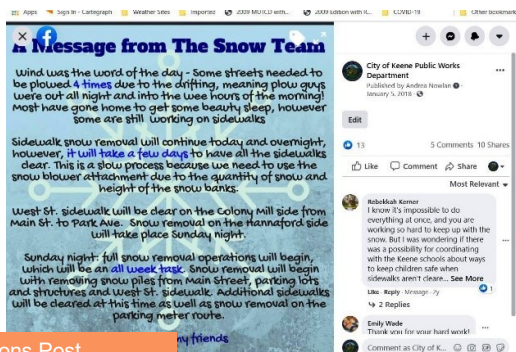
In Keene, at City Council meetings, the City Manager has a section where she does announcements. I make sure that she has two to three items from me for each meeting. Informational memorandums to your elected officials are a great tool; our City Engineer develops memorandums on construction projects that are updated several times during the season. For the City Council, I take the opportunity to work in a comment on City operated/owned infrastructure, the amount of, its age, and condition. Overtime, this provides an understanding of the magnitude of infrastructure the community is responsible for maintaining.

Establishing a relationship with local reporters, editors, bloggers, and show hosts, can advance your advocacy. In Keene, we issue out press releases. We announce street closures, programs, or upcoming events. The Keene Highway Superintendent calls in on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week to a local radio talk show. We do activities within the community. These are advocacy opportunities. The water staff within the Department organizes and runs a Water Science Fair for 4th Grade students. The Department does an Arbor Day program where the Highway Division has an elementary school class help them plant a tree. The Keene Police Department has sponsored several Community Night Out events and I have made sure that we have staff, vehicles and equipment displays. All these events provide opportunity to establish connections with your community.



Keene 4th Grade Science Fair

Social media has changed the way the world communicates and interact. The Department has been participating in social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) since 2011. These are platforms that you can use to inform and advocate. Much of the work done by Public Works is visual which is great when working with social media platforms.



Winter Operations Post

Reach out to your State Legislators or their administrative staff. They appreciate hearing from “locals”. You can increase your impact through participating in your State’s Public Works Chapter. Many chapters have legislative or public relations committees. Working on these committees will give you the opportunity to interact with your State legislators and advocate for infrastructure and Public Works issues.

Getting to know your Federal legislative delegation (Congress and Senate) is important. You can also have an impact at the Federal level through APWA and its National Committees who are advocating for Public Works. These committees are always looking for information from members and you can assist by providing your stories.

Advocacy takes time and resources. If the view of Public Works is going to change we need to be the advocate. I know our daily lives are busy, as you can see advocacy can be worked into your schedules. Start local. Start today.

LOCAL ROAD AGENCIES WRITE THE NEW WINTER OPERATIONS PLAYBOOK IN RESPONSE TO COVID

BY MARILEE LAFOND, UNH TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER (UNH T2)

By the time you read this, most, if not all, of New Hampshire's road agencies will have plowed, salted, or otherwise begun the winter maintenance battle. Public works isn't only fighting Old Man Winter this year though, it's also fighting COVID; many highway teams are taking a closer look at their winter operations plans and asking, "What if....?" What if two team members were quarantined? What if half your team members traveled during the holidays or had visitors and were subject to quarantine restrictions? Think of the many scenarios out there and brainstorm plans A, B, C, and D (and beyond).

Equip your teams- with information, PPE, and support

What constitutes a "direct exposure" and how can individuals best protect themselves against that? If employees understand how to minimize their likelihood of a high-risk exposure and are alert to potentially risky situations (such as working closer than six feet to an individual for an extended period of time), they are better empowered to make personal decisions that support a safe work environment, as well as to understand the contact tracing process if it needs to be initiated.

Aside from creative space solutions such as renting temporary office trailers, consider creative ways to stay engaged as a team. If your usual potluck dinner is off, perhaps a restaurant can safely cater boxed meals. Provide employees snacks for their shifts, to help reduce stops at convenience stores. Consider work-life balance and try to ensure employees have ample time to rest off-shift.

Support one another

Another important component to resilient operations throughout COVID is effective cross-training and process documentation. It's also important to maintain ongoing communication and discussion with your Emergency Management and preparedness partners, as well as to support conversations around prioritizing critical infrastructure if staff resources are impacted.

Maintain close contact also with your other municipal partners and consider how you can leverage one another's support during a time of need. Consider your public outreach and communication also. As much as COVID might have left us feeling "isolated", the importance of having routine, ongoing, and transparent conversation is more critical now than ever.

We're all in this, together

Strong communication and planning have perhaps never been more critical to your public works team's success than right now. Continue asking questions of each other, networking, raising ideas and sharing thoughts with your public works network. There is so much truth in that warm and friendly phrase we've heard so often this year... we're all in this together, and we're getting through this together.

Stay well, and please reach out to let us know how UNH T2 can help your teams!

- [COVID Winter Maintenance Plan](#) tech sheet from Cornell Local Roads program (NY LTAP)
- Collection of [COVID Resources](#) from UNH T2
- Avoiding the Winter Woes: COVID Resilient Winter Operations discussion with NH public works leaders [Part I](#) and [Part II](#)
- ["How local departments can reap big rewards using social media"](#) article from November APWA Report-er

Uniquely New Hampshire

By John Vancour, P.E., Hayner/Swanson Inc.



Every community has features of interest to members of the Public Works profession. These features could include unusual or historically significant structures such as unique bridges, dams or buildings. In this and in future newsletters, we want to highlight some of these features in and around New Hampshire.

In this article, the focus is on the major efforts taken by the City of Nashua Public Works Division to preserve a local landmark. The Nashua Millyard Smokestack is visible for miles and serves as a reminder of the City's industrial heritage. This iconic millyard smokestack was constructed as part of a major upgrade in steam producing facilities. This upgrade started in 1881 and was expanded in 1898.

During recent decades, as Nashua planned for the new Broad Street Parkway, a road which improved access to downtown following a route through the historic mill yard district, extensive planning was undertaken to consider options for possible preservation and reuse of the boiler house and associated smokestack. However, the presence of extensive asbestos contamination within the boiler house led to the need for its demolition. Upon inspection, it was determined that the 180-foot-tall smokestack was generally in fairly good condition requiring spot replacement of bricks and repointing of all surfaces. However, the top 15 feet was observed to be in very poor condition.

Upon review, it was determined that meeting wind load criteria was a necessary aspect for preservation. However, the need to reinforce this structure presented engineering challenges. Complicating the determination of the preferred method for reinforcement, little was known about the smokestack's foundation other than it had successfully supported the structure for more than a century.

Recognizing that the load on the foundation could not be increased, it was observed that the smokestack had an internal liner. Removal of this liner would provide an allowance for adding material to provide reinforcement without increasing the overall weight. Clearly the expertise of experts highly experienced on similar structures would be needed to design and perform the specialty construction required.

Nashua's Public Works Division and their consultant, Hayner/Swanson, Inc., prepared and implemented a design/build solicitation and managed the subsequent project. This solicitation included detailed provisions which allowed consideration of innovative methods, while at the same time assuring that the work would be performed by experienced craftsman.

International Chimney Corporation of Buffalo, New York proposed to remove the existing liner and attach a steel mesh to the interior brick wall using embedded anchors. A 4-inch layer of gunite would be applied encasing this mesh. The weight of this gunite and steel mesh would be less than the weight of the removed liner. In addition, they replaced missing bricks and repointed all exterior surfaces. The heavily damaged top 15 feet was removed and a waterproof cap attached.

As the project neared completion, the decision was made to keep the lettering on the side of the smokestack untouched. Over time, these letters will continue to fade leaving the original appearance more prominent.

With a total cost of \$937,000, this project preserved this icon of Nashua's industrial past in the heart of the mill yard area where improved access with the adjacent parkway is encouraging renewed interest and redevelopment.

If you know of a similar landmark which would be of interest to the public works community and would serve as a topic for a future article such as this one, please contact the author at jvancor@hayner-swanson.com.

What's In Your Toolbox?

By Kürt Blomquist, Public Works Director, City of Keene



Everyone who works in Public Works has a tool box. It may be one with metal sides, a few scrapes and dents, and even that championship sticker on the side. It contains the tools of our trade, a hammer or that flat edge shovel that fits perfectly under the man-hole cover. It can also be our cell phone with those contacts of just the right person when you have a question. We are always looking at our tool boxes and wondering if they are complete. Do we have that right tool when we need it?

We have been very fortunate here in New Hampshire, for it has been sometime since a major emergency event or disaster has happened. Superstorm Sandy in 2012, left approximately 200,000 residents without power, tree damage, flooding, and storm surge damage to coastal communities. In 2008 the state was impacted by an ice storm that left regions in New Hampshire without power for over fourteen (14) days, over 600,000 customers were left without power, and thousands of tons of debris was generated.

Our communities are impacted by small localized emergencies on a daily basis. In 2013, Lebanon and Westmoreland experienced over four inches of rain that cause significant damage, and disruption of gas service to over 1,600 customers in Keene. In December of 2015, Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) contamination of water supplies in the Towns of Litchfield and Merrick in 2016 occurred. Even more localized event such as water main failures, hazardous material incidents, or forest fires can task a community's resources and compromise infrastructure.

Our Departments are tasked with more work than there are resources available, and this is amplified during an emergency. So what do you have in your toolbox that you can call upon to assist you in responding and recovering from an unplanned event, natural or man-made disaster?

In 1998 the New Hampshire Public Works Mutual Aid Program was created from the experiences of several departments that had experienced an emergency and found there was not an organized way to obtain assistance from other communities. Mutual aid agreements are not new within the emergency service sectors. Fire and police departments have been using them for years to bring in expertise and resources to assist during periods when local resources are taxed.

The New Hampshire Mutual Aid Program is set up for agencies to request and provide assistance during an emergency. It establishes the processes for how an agency requests assistance and what information should be available to the providing agency, establishes the initial length of time of assistance, establishes how supervision will occur, outlines the responsibilities of the agency requesting and providing assistance, how costs are documented and reimbursed, and how insurances are managed. The program has continued to grow since its creation. In 2004 the NH Building Inspector Association joined the program. Around 2010, water and wastewater utilities, public and private, were incorporated into it. Being a member of the program during a federally declared emergency can help a community obtain reimbursement from the FEMA, and assistance can also be made in events smaller than federally declared emergencies. All communities should have a method in which an emergency is declared. As a NHPWMA member you have access to equipment, people, and expertise that can be brought in during response and recovery activities. Cost of membership is \$25 per year for the program.

So, looking in your tool box, do you have a tool that is this multi-faceted? If you are interested and want to learn more you can go to New Hampshire Public Works Mutual Aid Program at <http://t2.unh.edu/ma>.

NHPWA Board Members

President Lisa Fauteux City of Nashua 603-589-3140 Term Expires: June 30, 2021		
President Elect Timothy Clougherty City of Manchester 603-624-6444 Term Expires: June 30, 2021	Treasurer/Secretary: Dan Hudson City of Nashua (603) 589-3120 Term Expires: June 30, 2021	
Public Sector Representatives:	Partner Associations:	
Lisa Fauteux (See above under President) Term Expires: June 30, 2021	Past President Scott Kinmond Town of New Durham 603-859-8000 Term Expires: June 30, 2021	
Timothy Clougherty (See above under President Elect) Term Expires: June 30, 2020	State Director Representative of the New England Chapter APWA Kurt Blomquist - City of Keene 603-352-6550	
Dan Hudson (See above under Treasurer/Secretary) Term Expires: June 30, 2021	Representative from the NH Water Pollution Control Association Peter Goodwin - Tate & Howard 207-752-0119	
	Representative from NH DOT CR Willeke - NHDOT 603-271-6472	
Members At Large:		
Christina Hall - City of Lebanon 603-448-0674 Term Expires: June 30, 2022	Representative from the NH Water Works Association Bill Boulanger - City of Dover 603-516-6462	Ian Rohrbacher - City of Rochester 603-335-7610
F. Adam Yanulis - Tighe & Bond 781-708-9823 Term Expires: June 30, 2022	Representative from the NH LTAP Marilee LaFond 603-862-2826	
Aaron M. Lachance, P.E. Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc. 603-669-5555 Term Expires: June 30, 2022	Representative from the Municipal Management Association of NH Bill Herman - Town of Auburn 603-483-5052	
Britt Eckstrom Wright-Pierce 603-570-7126 Term Expires: June 30, 2022	Representative from NH Road Agents Association Rick Riendeau - Town of Milford 603-673-1662	
	Representative from NH DES Keith DuBois 603-271-8806	
	Member of the NH Consulting Community John Vancor, on behalf of ACEC - Hayner/Swanson, Inc 603-883-2057	
	Chairman from the NH Public Works Mutual Aid Alan Cote - Town of Derry 603-432-6144	
	Representative from NH Prime David Witham - Primex 603-225-2841	

Become a Member of the NHPWA!

- \$50 for Individual membership
- \$100 for Municipal Group membership
- \$150 for Corporate Group membership

To download the membership application form and to learn more about the NHPWA go to: www.t2.unh.edu/nhpwa

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