

ROAD BUSINESS

On the Road in New Hampshire

By Justin Pelletier, UNH T² Project Assistant & UNH Civil Engineering Student

Thanks to Kurt Grasset, Hancock Road Agent, for completing an interview and submitting the pictures.



Eleven hundred feet of Norway Hill Road in Hancock underwent full-depth reclamation (FDR) this summer. FDR is the recycling of old road material by crushing and mixing it with cement and water then compacting it to create the base for a new road.

Hancock worked with *Pike Industries* on the project. The FDR lasted three days. The road was reclaimed on day one; cement was used to stabilize the base on day two; and the road was paved on day three. The project cost \$149,000.

The town of Hancock was awarded a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant. This covered 75% of the total cost. Half of the 75% was paid to the town before construction began. The other half was reimbursed after the project was completed.

Prior to FDR, the road had very poor drainage. Both ditches frequently overflowed during heavy rain. Driveways washed out in spring and ice sheets formed in winter.

The road now has a closed drainage system with catch basins and cape cod berms to direct water. Pipes were installed below the frost line so runoff can flow freely.

Hancock's Selectboard was pleased that FEMA contributed fiscally. Local residents, particularly the ones who experienced flooded yards, washed out driveways, and ice-covered roads, are very happy with the expected project results.

Kurt Grasset, Hancock Road Agent, did consider other options for the project. He thought about shimming and overlaying new asphalt over the existing road. This would have cost the town \$17,000. Kurt also considered completing all repairs except upgrading the drainage system. This would have cost the town \$133,000. However, both alternatives would have done little to improve the drainage or prevent further damage to the road due to freeze/thaw cycles.

Kurt advises other municipalities when considering such a project, to do their research and be thorough. Kurt says The Road Recycling Council in Cambridge, MA, is a great resource (www.roadrecycling.org or 857-998-0119).

Kurt and his crew are very happy with the project results. Road reclamation is a great option for municipalities that are looking to save money and resources.

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Vol. 23 No. 3

Master Roads Scholars	2
Working with Difficult Behavior	3-4
Benefits of Testing Aggregate	5-6
Unpaved Roads--Technical Note	
Public Works Software Update	7
Crossword Puzzle.....	8
Roads Scholar Program Update.....	8
Staff Changes	9
Dates, Milestones & Websites	9
Publications & Videos	10
Listservs & Program Info.....	11
Calendar	12