



## PRELIMINARY PUBLIC NOTICE D01-193-2022

The United States Coast Guard is soliciting public comments on a proposal by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) to replace an existing movable bascule bridge, the Route 1B (Wentworth) Bridge, with a fixed bridge. The reason for this proposal is due to the limited number of requests to open the bridge since 2010. The purpose of this project is to provide a safe, functional and efficient crossing that serves the needs for highway, pedestrian and marine traffic. The need for this proposal is to replace a structurally deficient, functionally obsolete bridge with a condition rating of "serious". A Coast Guard Bridge Permit application has not yet been submitted but would be required for this project.

A previous Preliminary Public Notice for this project was issued by the Coast Guard on August 25, 2015. The Coast Guard is issuing this Preliminary Public Notice to solicit updated information on waterway usage. Interested parties who submitted information to the original Preliminary Public Notice are encouraged to do so again and include any updated information. Information received from the original Preliminary Public Notice will also be considered.

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** Little Harbor, mile 0.8 between Rye and New Castle, NH

### **MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:**

	Vertical Clearance (MHW)	Vertical Clearance (MLW)	Horizontal Clearance
Existing Bridge – Open	65.0 ft	73.6 ft	29.3 ft
Existing Bridge – Closed	13.0 ft	21.6 ft	29.3 ft
Fixed Bridge Proposed	17.3 ft	25.9 ft	51.5 ft

(Vertical clearance through the existing bridge when open is limited by overhead wires.)

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION:**

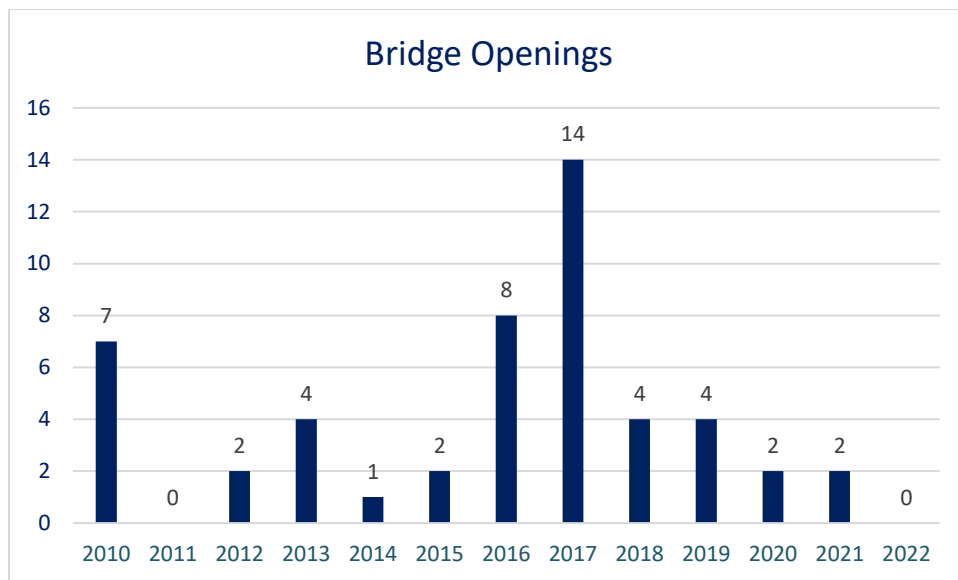
The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the lead federal agency for satisfying the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This project has not yet been classified under regulations implementing NEPA.

## **SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:**

The existing bridge is the only movable bridge allowing access for vessels with an air draft (height) of 14 feet or greater to the back channels of Portsmouth Harbor and Sagamore Creek watersheds at mean high water. The proposed fixed bridge would have a vertical clearance of 17.3 feet (MHW) and 25.9' (MLW).

Since 2010, the bridge has received an average of 3.9 openings per year. For the past five years (2018 – 2022), there have been 12 bridge openings (2.4 per year) with one vessel asking for 10 of the 12 openings.

The existing bridge requires four hours advance notification for opening.



Mariners are requested to comment on navigational access and safety issues, including the need for clearance gauges, the four hour advance notification for opening requirement, and extended nighttime navigation through the bridge.

Boat owners in the project vicinity are requested to provide information about their vessels including type of vessel, length overall, draft, beam, and height from the waterline to the highest fixed point and to appurtenant structures (e.g. tuna towers, flying bridges, fixed antennas, outriggers and radar units) and whether these appurtenant structures can be lowered. Also provide where the vessel is primarily moored and the frequency of passage under the proposed bridge (i.e., number of times per month).

Interested parties are requested to express their views in writing on the proposed bridge project, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of or opposition to the proposed work. Comments will be received for the record at the address above or by e-mail to [SMB-D1Boston-Bridges-PublicNotices@uscg.mil](mailto:SMB-D1Boston-Bridges-PublicNotices@uscg.mil) through November 15, 2022.

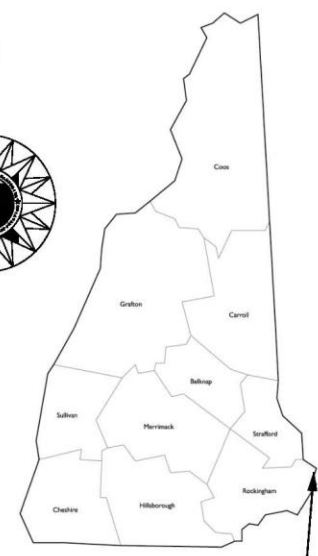
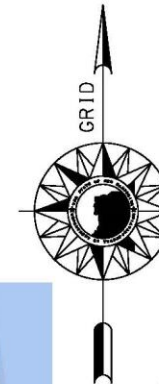
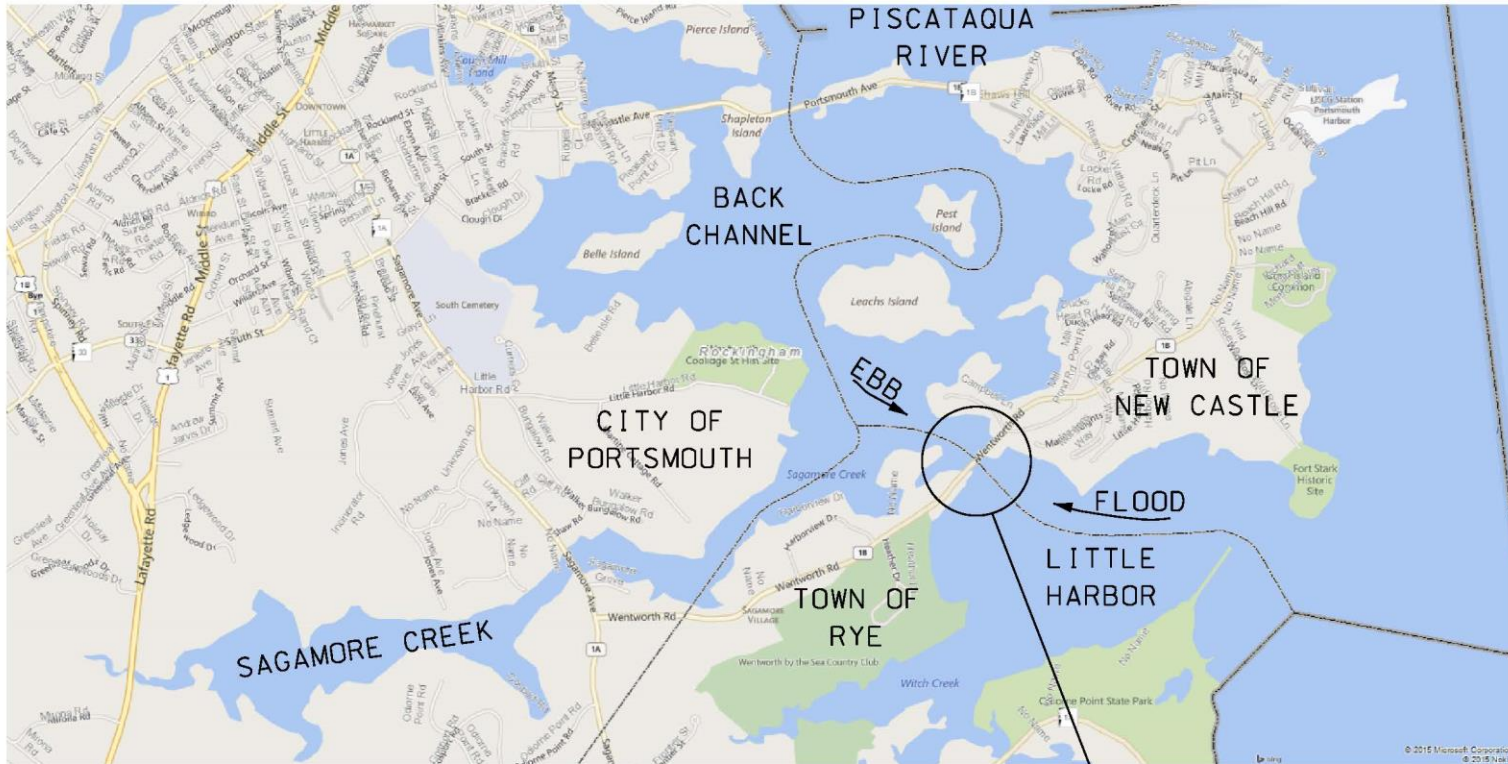
It is requested that this information be brought to the attention of any person having an interest who may not have received a copy of this public notice.

Concept plans of the proposed project are included in this preliminary public notice.

//D. A. Fisher//

Bridge Program Manager  
First Coast Guard District  
By direction

This is a web-searchable copy and is not the official, signed version; however, other than the signature being omitted, it is a duplicate of the official version

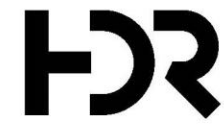


PROJECT LOCATION

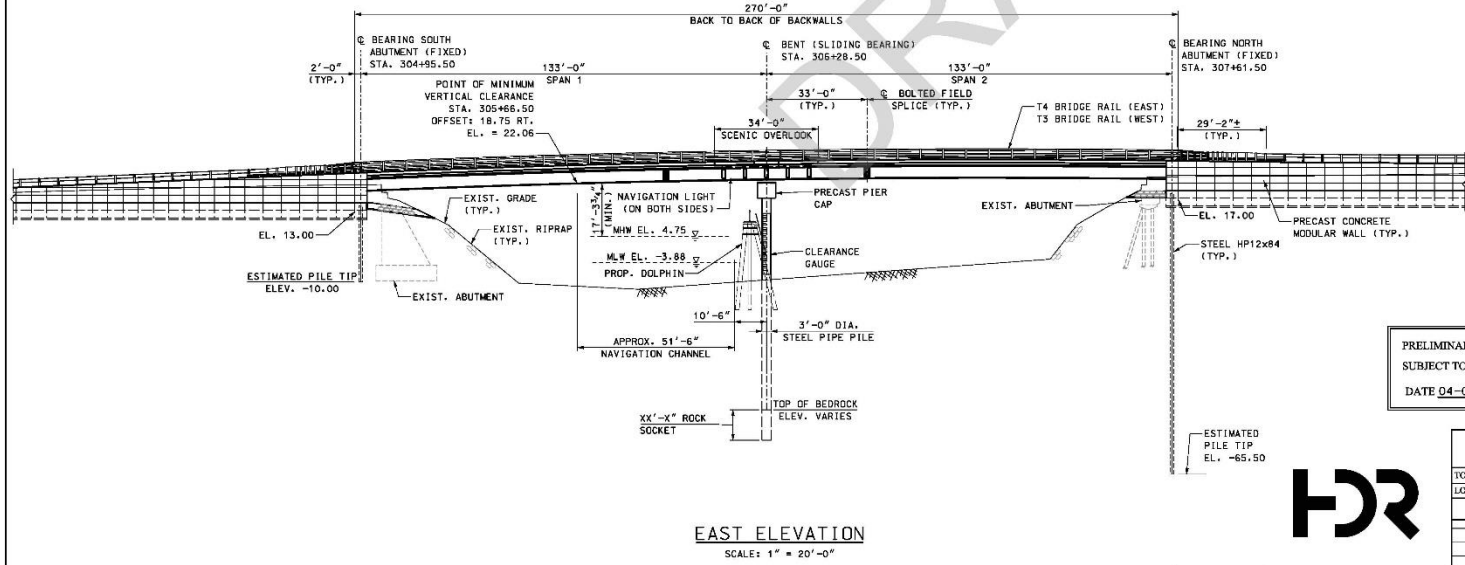
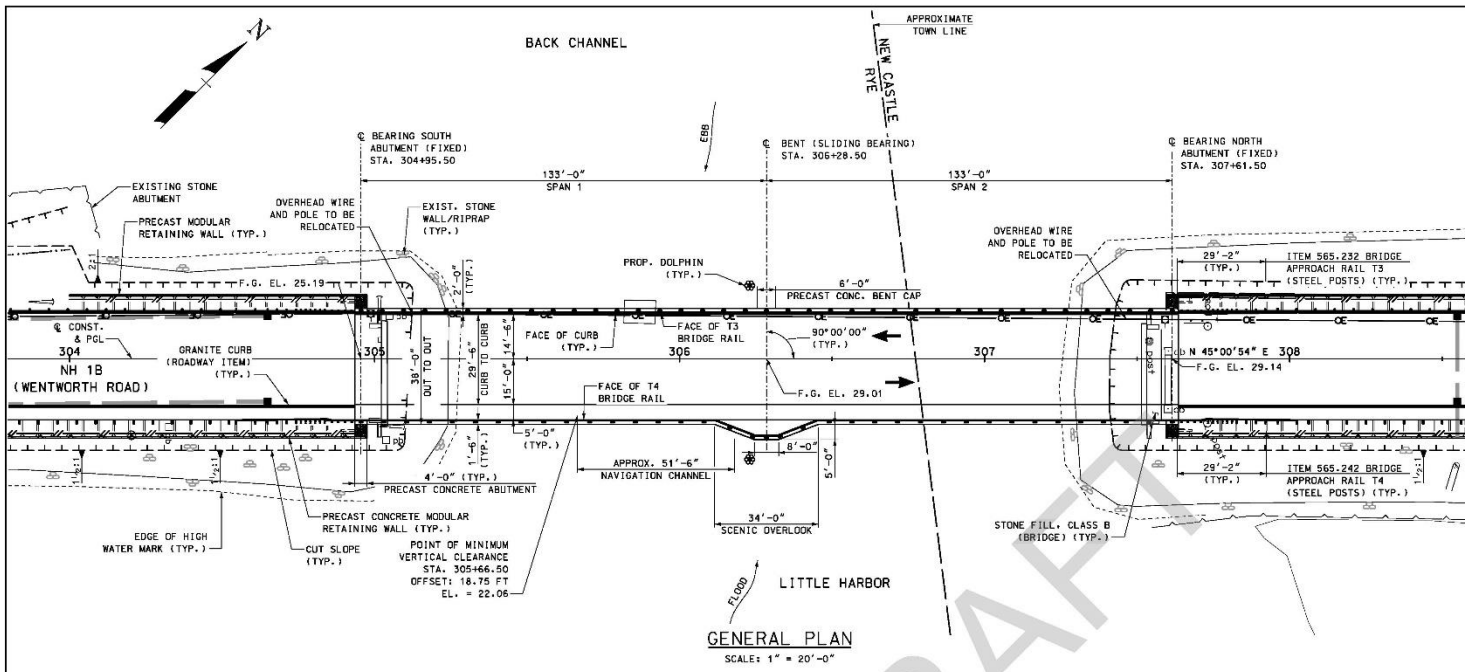
PROJECT LOCATION



GRAPHIC SCALE



<b>STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>				
<b>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION * BUREAU OF BRIDGE DESIGN</b>				
TOWN	NEW CASTLE - RYE	COUNTY	ROCKINGHAM	BRIDGE NO. 066/071 STATE PROJECT 16127
LOCATION	N.H. 1B (WENTWORTH ROAD) OVER LITTLE HARBOR			
<b>LOCATION/VICINITY MAP</b>				SHEET NUMBER
DATE:	JUNE 12, 2015			1 OF 7



PRELIMINARY PLANS  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
DATE 04-06-2017

HYDRAULIC DATA	
DRAINAGE AREA	541 SQ. MILES
DESIGN FLOOD DISCHARGE (100 YR)	16,361 CFS
DESIGN FLOOD ELEVATION (100 YR)	8.4 FEET
DESIGN FLOOD VELOCITY (100 YR)	5.0 FPS
SCOUR CHECK DISCHARGE (500 YR)	19,347 CFS
ANTICIPATED DEPTH OF SCOUR (100 YR)	14.8 FEET (AT BENT PILE)
ANTICIPATED DEPTH OF SCOUR (500 YR)	15.8 FEET (AT BENT PILE)
BRIDGE FULL WATERWAY OPENING 1 TO RIVER	4,392 SQ. FEET



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION * BUREAU OF BRIDGE DESIGN									
TOWN	NEW CASTLE-RYE	BRIDGE NO.	065070	STATE PROJECT	16127				
LOCATION	NH 1B (WENTWORTH ROAD) OVER LITTLE HARBOR								
GENERAL PLAN AND ELEVATION									
REVISIONS AFTER PROPOSAL	BY	DATE	BY	DATE	BRIDGE SHEET				
	SSL	03/17	CHECKED	RJX	03/17	1 OF 1			
	SSL	03/17	CHECKED	JFM	03/17	FILE NUMBER			
	SSL	03/17	CHECKED	MCC	03/17	131-4-1			
ISSUE DATE	04/17	FEDERAL PROJECT NO.			SHEET NO.				
REV. DATE		X-A001(146)			1	TOTAL SHEETS			
SUBDISSECTORY	IGN LOCATOR	SHEET SCALE							
BR	16127Genplan	AS NOTED							