



The bridge over the Blackwater River on Route 4 near Plains Road and Green Crow has been one-lane-only for the past several weeks. DOT plans to close the bridge entirely sometime in October for extensive repairs, with traffic detoured over Town roads during the closure. Photo: Charlie Darling

Bridge on Route 4 May Be Closed in October

DOT plans extensive repairs near Green Crow

Andover Board of Selectmen

New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) has updated the Board of Selectmen on the status and schedule of repairs to the bridge over the Blackwater River on Route 4 near Plains Road and Green Crow.

DOT has yet to define the extent of repairs and how it affects the capacity of this bridge for legal loads. DOT has determined the need for full bridge closure during part of the repairs and the possibility of the Town allowing the use of Plains Road as a temporary detour,

including trucks, during the full bridge closure. DOT will meet with the Selectmen during the next couple of weeks to review the overall project and schedule.

Bridge Maintenance, a division of DOT, has mobilized some staff to begin setting up the site to get ready for jacking operations to temporarily support the bridge (one side at a time) while the repairs are performed. They are also procuring materials so that they can be brought to the site prior to any bridge closure being put into effect, tentatively scheduled for mid-October.

This information was provided by Mark Richardson, PE, Administrator, Bridge Design Bureau.

Town Clerk's Office Closed on October 17

New license plate type in effect

Joanna Sumner, Town Clerk

On July 28, Senate Bill 231, relative to the regulation of tractors and low-speed utility vehicles, was passed into law. This law took effect upon passing.

Per the new law the following definitions were created:

259:2-a Agricultural/Industrial Utility Vehicle. "Agricultural/industrial utility vehicle" shall mean a vehicle, including an off road highway recreational vehicle, with four or six wheels, an internal combustion engine or electric motor or both, but excluding a tractor, equipped in accordance with the provisions of RSA 261:41-a III, that is capable of carrying no more than six occupants, has a load capacity of 1,500 pounds or less, and is in use for farming, agricultural, or light industrial uses, and is limited to ways or portions of ways where such vehicles are allowed and having posted speed limits of 40 miles per hour or less, within a 10-mile radius from an entrance to land used by the farm or a two-mile radius from the entrance to the light industrial complex or construction

site, and subject to any other special conditions established by the government authority controlling the way.

259:49-a Light Industrial Use. "Light industrial use" shall mean manufacturing and distribution of products for wholesale or retail use where the operation includes the need to access contiguous or nearby warehouses, showrooms, construction sites, or manufacturing facilities, including crossing a way or portion of a way or driving on a way where the route or crossing is approved by the government authority controlling the way.

So how will this affect you? If you currently have a plate type of Tractor, you will need to come into the office to renew your registration so we can determine what type of vehicle you really have: 1. A farm tractor. 2. A tractor that isn't being used for farm/agricultural purposes. 3. An Agricultural/Industrial utility vehicle which will now receive special plates.

Office Closed

The office will be closed on Friday, October 17, so that we can attend the City and Town Clerks' Annual Conference in North Conway.

Selectmen's Report on the State of Town Bridges

Setting aside money for future repairs

Andover Board of Selectmen

The Town of Andover owns 20 bridges. The Board of Selectmen is addressing our bridge issues by establishing accounts to save money for future repairs and by saving money by grouping bridge repairs together. The Board of Selectmen has been pushing the Department of Transportation for a new estimate of cost for the Lawrence Street Bridge and to see what design changes can be made to reduce the overall cost of the project.

Bridges that are Closed

- Gale Road: DOT's best-guess estimate of \$20,000 will be in the proposed Town budget for 2015.
- Cilleyville-Bog Bridge: \$5,000 in reserve fund for maintenance
- Ragged Mountain Fish and Game Club Road: No action required
- Valley Road (Tucker Brook): No action required
- Hoyt Road (Sucker Brook): No action required

Bridges to Repair

NH DOT's best-guess estimate for each one of these projects is \$50,000.

- Kearsarge Mountain Road: Guard rails and new decking
- Hall Road: New decking

- Elbow Pond Road: New decking
- Valley Road (Sucker Brook): New decking
- Last Street: New decking

Bridges to Replace

- Lawrence Street (Blackwater): Full replacement. DOT's estimate of \$5 million is based on its review of plans that are over five years old. The Board of Selectmen has requested an updated estimate.
- Morrill Hill Road: Full replacement. DOT estimate: \$750,000. This project is awaiting state funding. Andover has paid its portion, and the project was approved for 2010. However, under-funding of DOT's 10-year plan has deferred this project to an unknown year.

Other Bridges

- Cilleyville Road (Blackwater): No reported issues
- Bridge Street (Blackwater): No reported issues
- Bradley Lake Road (Hames Shop): No reported issues
- Bradley Lake Road (Dam): No reported issues
- Maple Street (Rail Trail): Weight limit of six tons, no planned repairs
- Maple Street (Dam): No reported issues
- Dyers Crossing Road: No reported issues

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Are you

SUMMER FOLK?



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