

Appendix F - Sarah Mildred Long Bridge Options

Sarah Mildred Long Bridge

MaineDOT and NHDOT, along with the FHWA Divisions of ME and NH, are currently conducting the ME-NH Connections Study, which is evaluating the transportation needs between Portsmouth, New Hampshire and Kittery, Maine over the Piscataqua River. The Connections Study will include the identification and analysis of potential transportation strategies and alternatives to meet local and regional requirements through the year 2035 affecting the three existing bridges (I-95 High-Level Bridge, Sarah Mildred Long Bridge/US Route 1 Bypass, and the Portsmouth Memorial Bridge/US Route 1) over the Piscataqua River and includes an assessment of transportation, land use, social, economic, and environmental impacts and all transportation modes, including rail, highway, transit, marine navigation, pedestrian and bicycle. The Connections Study will evaluate the engineering and environmental feasibility of the alternatives in detail sufficient to identify a preferred alternative, including Section 106, Section 4(f) and the US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404b assessment. The results of the Connections Study will be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Maine's Sensible Transportation Policy Act (STPA). This study is scheduled for completion by June 2010.

If a TIGER grant is awarded for the Memorial Bridge, the Connections Study scope of work will be modified to eliminate further evaluation of alternative strategies for the Memorial Bridge, but options for addressing the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge will continue.

The range of options that will likely be considered for the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge under the Connections Study include such options as rehabilitation, in-place reconstruction, and replacement with a mid-level lift bridge or a high-level fixed bridge. Other options will likely be developed as the Study proceeds. In all instances, however, the rail bridge will remain, due to its vital link to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Because the scope of work for the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge has yet to be determined, and for the purposes of this TIGER Grant application it is assumed the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge will be rehabilitated because this approach yields the most conservative job creation estimate and provides the least project benefits as compared to other options that may be considered.