



PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE KITTERY, MAINE



At the neighborhood level – the design avoids a dead end of Bridge Street, minimizes retaining walls, and increases residential peace and quiet by providing direct access to the bridge and removing unnecessary vehicles from neighborhoods. On the Portsmouth end, the connection will occur before the Albacore Connector and add an additional turning lane. On the Kittery end, the connection improves traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

A huge benefit of the new bridge will be the drastic reduction in the number of bridge openings for ships. Since it will have a 56’ vertical clearance when it is in its “resting” position, there will be 68% fewer bridge

openings than there are today. In the “resting” position, the bridge’s lift span will be at its middle level to allow motor vehicles and cyclists to cross the river. The new bridge’s movable span will lift up to allow tall vessels to pass underneath and will lower to track level to allow trains to cross.

LOOKING FORWARD

Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2014 with the new alignment open to vehicles in November 2017. Maine DOT and New Hampshire DOT will communicate with the public throughout the project. To keep up with the latest project information, visit the project website at www.maine.gov/mdot/sml/index.shtml

FEWER OPENINGS SAVES TIME AND MONEY



www.maine.gov/mdot/sml

MAJOR BENEFITS OF THE DESIGN

The alignment of the new bridge will be slightly northwest of the existing crossing (shown by the yellow line to the left), which means that traffic can continue to flow on the existing bridge throughout most of construction of the new bridge. The new alignment greatly improves marine navigation – it straightens the navigational channel allowing large and modern vessels to access the port and shipyard. This creates economic opportunities for the port and region.



Rendering of the new bridge viewed from Oak Terrace

WELCOME TO THE SARAH MILDRED LONG BRIDGE OPEN HOUSE

The Sarah Mildred Long (SML) Bridge Replacement Project is the result of a partnership between Maine and New Hampshire’s Departments of Transportation to address bridge needs across the Piscataqua River. The community has been involved in the design of the new bridge since the beginning. The focus of this open house is to share the results of community involvement as seen in the final bridge design. The bridge links Maine and New Hampshire and provides a critical back-up route in case of disruption on the Interstate 95 Bridge across the Piscataqua. The SML is an important commercial crossing for traffic on the US Route 1 Bypass. It allows people and goods access to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, a source of 4,200 direct jobs. The existing bridge is restricted to motor vehicles. The replacement bridge will have ample shoulders to enable cyclists to cross it.

FUNCTIONAL, EFFICIENT BEAUTY:

The new bridge's vehicular structure will be stacked over its railroad structure. The bridge was designed with long open spans, using eleven fewer piers than the existing bridge. This means enhanced vistas for residents and motorists. Minimizing the number of piers increases the economy of the project, and preserves the environment. In addition, it allows the new bridge to span over Market Street, eliminating the existing pier in the median. The design of the piers was selected by the community during the community design workshops. The unique and eye-catching open-sheave tower design was also developed with the community during 5 design workshops and stakeholder meetings to reflect the working waterfront.

The use of concrete versus steel, means significant cost savings for both states over the 100-year life of the bridge.



OVERVIEW



Rendering of Typical Bridge Cross-section

Maine and New Hampshire have agreed that replacing the 74-year-old Sarah Mildred Long Bridge is the best way to ensure this crossing has a safe, functional, economical, and aesthetically pleasing bridge for many decades. The two states will equally share the costs of replacing the bridge. Maine DOT is leading the project on behalf of both states with support from the Federal Highway Administration.

PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION TO DESIGN

The final design of the SML and how it is built will benefit residents of Kittery and Portsmouth, and the travel experience for all bridge users. In addition, a new

bridge design provides a chance to increase opportunities for the Port, the Shipyard, and the regional economy. Since this bridge is so important to so many, the project team has engaged community stakeholders, including the general public, through a comprehensive effort that has included seven workshops and public events, and a dedicated project webpage for continual project information. In addition, the team has given several presentations to community organizations and provided information at the 2013 and 2014 Kittery Block Parties. Also, the SML Bridge replacement design development was graciously featured in an art exhibit at the Discover Portsmouth Center in the summer of 2013.



Pictures from community workshops during design.

