



CONNECTIONS STUDY PUBLIC MEETING RESCHEDULED TO FEBRUARY 25

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The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NH DOT) are rescheduling the next public meeting for the Maine-NH Connections Study to February 25. The originally scheduled February 10 meeting is being postponed because, as of today, the USDOT has not yet announced a decision on the joint ME-NH application for a federal TIGER Grant to rehabilitate the Memorial Bridge.

Carol Morris, study spokesperson, said that the DOTs and committee members had agreed earlier that a public meeting would be most productive if it took place after the grant decision was announced.

"We had expected the TIGER Grant decisions would be announced by USDOT in January," Morris said. "Consequently, we thought February 10 would be a good date to discuss the outcome of the grant application and provide a Study update. Since it is now February and the decision has not been announced, we felt it would be prudent to reschedule the meeting after the federally mandated February 17th announcement deadline." Morris said that neither Maine nor New Hampshire DOT have heard anything to indicate either way whether or not the Memorial Bridge will get grant funding.

The rescheduled meeting, which will outline which of the bridge options are still under consideration, will now take place Thursday, February 25, from 6-8 pm at the

Portsmouth High School Little Theater. Those who want to view materials and ask questions prior to the meeting may attend an open house from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

The Maine-NH Connections Study is analyzing all possible options for both the aging Memorial and Sarah Mildred Long Bridges, looking at how these bridges are used and identifying the types of changes or improvements that would best serve the region. The Study is expected to be completed in June of this year.