

# Improving I-293 Exits 6 and 7

## **Driving the Greater Manchester Area Forward**

For residents and visitors, commuters and businesses, I-293 (FE Everett Turnpike) provides essential links to and around the Greater Manchester area. In order to help maintain safe and efficient travel along this important highway, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) is leading an effort to improve capacity, safety, and access along a 3.5-mile segment of I-293 from north of Exit 5 (Granite Street) to Exit 7 (Front Street).

## What will this project accomplish?

The effort to improve this portion of I-293 will address deficiencies in the safety and design of the highway, while reducing congestion. It will also help support the longterm vision of the surrounding communities, especially Manchester and Goffstown, by enhancing access to the highway—and by accommodating travel related to future growth along the corridor. The I-293 Exits 6 and 7 project will examine travel not just for automobiles, trucks, and buses—but also for pedestrians and bicyclists.



### Who is involved?

Because of the importance of I-293 to the region, a collaborative approach is critical on this project. For this reason, the NHDOT, in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is working closely with a consultant team, led by Bedford-based VHB, as well as the public and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC includes representatives from the communities of Manchester, Goffstown, and Hooksett; the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission; the chambers of commerce for both Hooksett and Greater Manchester; and the Manchester Community College. Working together, the TAC plays an integral role in guiding the process and seeing that project goals are carried out.

#### **Further Information**

Catch up on progress made to date by reviewing the "Part A" planning study, past public meeting presentations, and more at: http://www.293planningstudy.com/planningstudydocuments.asp

Check who is on the TAC for your community here: http://www.293planningstudy.com/tac.asp

Make your voice heard by sharing feedback here: http://www.293planningstudy.com/feedback.asp

For more information about the FHWA's INVEST program, visit: https://www.sustainablehighways.org/

## What's been done so far?

Improving this section of I-293 is a journey in itself. It involves a three-step process, as seen below. "Part A" of the project, completed in December 2013, involved identifying a range of options to address capacity and safety concerns at the interchanges for both Exit 6 and Exit 7. It also examined the possibility of relocating and reconfiguring the Exit 7 interchange.



Planning Level Study (completed December 2013)

- Preliminary Engineering, Environmental Documentation, and Public Hearing (in progress, through May 2017)
- Final Design and Construction

#### Next Public Meeting

Learn more about the plans to improve I-293 along Exit 6 and Exit 7 by attending the open house and project presentation scheduled for:

Wednesday, August 10, 2016 6:00 pm Manchester Community College Auditorium Room 100 1066 Front St. Manchester, NH

TAC INVEST Sustainability Worksho





Currently, the team is working on "Part B" of this project. This phase involves refining options to improve this segment of I-293 and understanding the impact such changes may have on the natural environment and historical resources in the area. To help with this, the project team is making use of the FHWA's Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool (INVEST), a resource that helps transportation agencies like NHDOT incorporate responsibility toward environmental and cultural resources into the design, construction, and maintenance of their projects.

Using this information, as well as feedback from the TAC and public, the project team will then identify a proposed action and present the plan for approval at a public hearing.

## How can I stay informed and participate?

Driving forward these improvements to I-293 is truly a team effort, and everyone's voice is important. You are encouraged to stay involved by:

- Attending a public meeting, such as the one to be held on August 10, 2016
- Visiting our website (www.293planningstudy.com) for more information
- Providing your thoughts and suggestions through the "Feedback" link on the menu along the left side of the project website's homepage
- Connecting with the following key project team members:
  - NHDOT: Keith Cota, PE 603.271.1615 or kcota@dot.state.nh.us
  - Consultant from VHB: Marty Kennedy, PE 603-391-3900 or mkennedy@vhb.com