City of Berlin

Memo

To: Berlin City Council
From: Jim Wheeler, City Manager
Date: 10/5/2020
Re: City Manager's Report

1. The City Clerk's Office has mailed out 577 absentee ballots so far. A Citizen can obtain an absentee ballot by filling out an application which is available on the City's web site.

2. Attached please find a copy of an email and related NHDOT bridge reports sent by Asst. Commissioner Bill Cass. This information is follow-up information requested by Council on 10/5/20.

3. A letter appeared with the title **Berlin Lacks Competitive Engineering Bids** in the Letters section of the Berlin Daily Sun on September 29, 2020. As Berlin's City Manager and as one of Berlin's prior City Engineers, who is licensed to practice engineering in both New Hampshire and Maine, I like to take this opportunity to help clarify how the City procures engineering services.

   First and foremost, it is widely accepted that competitively bidding engineering services and selecting an engineering consultant solely on this basis of price is not in the best interest of the public. In short, this is because engineering is a knowledge based service. Selecting engineering services solely on price, as we do with items such as a piece of equipment for Public Works, can lead to hiring someone who is not well qualified for the engineering work to be completed. The City uses a Qualification Based Selection process that is widely accepted across government, including the State of NH and engineering consultants. Anyone wanting to learn more about this process can go to: https://www.acec-nh.org/about-nhqbs/.

   The letter in the Daily Sun stated that since 2005 … "the only engineering firm that has been hired by this city, has been HEB Engineers." While I have not researched prior to 2013, when I came on as City Manager, I can think of at least four other engineering firms the City has hired on the basis of qualifications and used since then. These include; Wright-Pierce Engineering, Wilson Engineering Services, CMA Engineering and Sansoucy Associates. The City does look to develop relationships with qualified professional engineering firms in order to complete infrastructure and other work with the goal of producing the highest quality product for the resources allocated. Once a firm has demonstrated their proficiency and qualifications in a particular subject matter, we will call upon them for projects that are clearly in their wheelhouse.

4. The Berlin Airport has had its best month for fuel sales on record. A helicopter company, installing fiber optic cable in the North Country, has made the Berlin Airport its home base due to the availability of fuel. They purchased 6,333 gallons of fuel in September at a cost of $5/gallon.

168 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570
603-752-7532
www.berlinnh.gov

5. The NH Housing Finance Authority will be doing a webinar next week titled: **From the Outskirts to Downtown: Taxes, Land Use & Value in 15 New Hampshire Communities.** The topic appears very interesting and relevant to our community. Below is the description and link:

   Property taxes are the key revenue source for New Hampshire's local governments. Join New Hampshire Housing for a highly visual and engaging virtual presentation by Joe Minicozzi of Urban3 that's based on his analysis of the taxes, land use, and land value in 15 communities across the state. New Hampshire Housing contracted with Urban3 to analyze the property tax revenues of Berlin, Claremont, Concord, Dover, Exeter, Hanover, Hudson, Keene, Laconia, Lebanon, Nashua, Pelham, Peterborough, Portsmouth and Rochester

   By using these data to create 3D visualizations, Urban 3's analysis reveals the potential for improving the fiscal health of each of these 15 communities. The visuals show what types of development create the greatest tax return for communities, and create a clear and data-driven understanding of the economics of place. With these 3D depictions of its data, a community can use this as a tool to make public policy adjustments, with the goal of creating long-term financial resiliency.

   Thu, Oct 15, 2020 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM EDT
   https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5170431849006990096

Bridge Inspection Report

NBI Structure Number: 002301890010100

Berlin 189/101

Date of Inspection: 05/05/2020
Date Report Sent: 08/25/2020
Owner: NHDOT
Bridge Inspection Group: A-Team
Bridge Maintenance Crew: 01

NH110
over
JERICHO BROOK

Recommended Postings:

Weight: **No Posting Required** ☑ Weight Sign OK

Width: **Not Required** ☑ Width Sign OK

Primary Height Sign Recommendation: *None*
Optional Centerline Height Sign Rec: *None*

Clearances: (Feet) Over: 99.99 Under: 0.00 Route: 99.99

☑ Height Sign OK

Condition:

Red List Status: Not on the Redlist
Deck: 7 Good
Superstructure: 7 Good
Substructure: 7 Good
Culvert: N N/A (NBI)
Sufficiency Rating: 93.6 %

Structure Type and Materials:

Number of Main Spans: 1
Number of Approach Spans: 0

Main Span Material and Design Type
Concrete/Frame

Bridge Rail: Substandard
Rail Transition: Substandard
Bridge Approach Rail: Meets Standards
Approach Rail Ends: Meets Standards

NH Bridge Type: CRF (Concrete Rigid Frame)
Deck Type: Concrete-Cast-in-Place
Wearing Surface: Bituminous
Membrane: None
Deck Protection: None
Curb Reveal: 6 in
Plan Location: 3-3-1-7
Total Bridge Length: 25.0 ft
Right Curb/Sidewalk Width: 0.0 ft
Total Bridge Width: 35.0 ft
Median: No median
Bridge Skew: 20.00 °
Year Built/Rebuilt: 1954

Bridge Dimensions:

Length Maximum Span: 22.0 ft
Left Curb/Sidewalk Width: 0.0 ft
Width Curb to Curb: 32.0 ft
Approach Roadway Width: (W/Shoulders) 32.0 ft

Bridge Inspection Report

NBI Structure Number: 002301890010100

Berlin 189/101

Bridge Service:

Type of Service on Bridge: Highway
Type of Service Under: Waterway
Lanes on Bridge: 2
Lanes Under: 0
AADT: 2,966 Percent Trucks: 3 % Year of AADT: 2018
Future AADT: 4,389 Year of Future AADT: 2040

Federal or State Definition Bridge: Fed-Definition Bridge
National Highway System: Bridge does not carry NHS
Roadway Functional Class: Rural, Minor Arterial
New Hampshire Bridge Tier: 3
Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places: Possibly eligible for
Traffic Direction: 2-way traffic

National Bridge Inventory (NBI) Appraisal Ratings:

Deck Geometry: 4 Tolerable
Underclearances: N Not applicable (NBI)
Approach Alignment: 8 Equal Desirable Crit
Structural Evaluation: 7 Above Min Criteria
Channel/Channel Protection: 6 Bank Slumping
Waterway Adequacy: 9 Above Desirable
Bridge Scour Critical Status: 8 Stable Above Footing
Riprap Condition: Good Condition
Debris Present: No Debris Present
Channel Notes: BEAVER DAM APPROXIMATELY 70' UPSTREAM. LIGHT SCOUR, BANK EROSION AND DRIFT. CONCRETE RETAINING WALL AT SE CRACKED AND SPALLED. SMALL SCOUR HOLE AT SE CORNER.

Bridge Inspection Report

NBI Structure Number: 002301890010100

Berlin 189/101

Element Details (see disclaimer below)

No.	Description	Material Notes and Condition Notes:
38	Reinforced Concrete Slab	C.I.P. CRF top slab 16 inches thick
└ 510	Wearing Surfaces	PAVEMENT MODERATELY CRACKED.
└ 3220	Crack (Wearing Surface)	PAVEMENT MODERATELY CRACKED.
215	Reinforced Concrete Abutment	MINOR SPALLS IN WINGS, LIGHT CRACK IN SE. FACE OF FOOTING EXPOSED UP TO ONE FOOT AT SE ABUTMENT CORNER.
└1080	Delamination/Spall/Patched Area	MINOR SPALLS, LIGHT SPALL AT END OF SW WING.
└1120	Efflorescence/Rust Staining	RUST STAINS IN SE WING FASCIA.
└1130	Cracking (RC and Other)	LIGHT HORIZONTAL CRACK AT TOP OF SE WING.
└6000	Scour	SMALL SCOUR HOLE AT SE ABUTMENT CORNER AT THE END OF THE ABUTMENT EXTENSION TOE-WALL.
330	Metal Bridge Railing	** 2-Bar Aluminum ** MINOR SCRAPES.

Element States (see disclaimer below)

No.	Description	Quantity	Units	State 1	State 2	State 3	State 4
38	Reinforced Concrete Slab	872	sq.ft	100%	0%	0%	0%
└ 510	Wearing Surfaces	---	---	50%	35%	15%	0%
└ 3220	Crack (Wearing Surface)	50	sq.ft	0%	70%	30%	0%
215	Reinforced Concrete Abutment	141	ft	86%	6%	8%	0%
└1080	Delamination/Spall/Patched Area	3	ft	0%	0%	100%	0%
└1120	Efflorescence/Rust Staining	8	ft	0%	0%	100%	0%
└1130	Cracking (RC and Other)	3	ft	0%	100%	0%	0%
└6000	Scour	6	ft	0%	100%	0%	0%
330	Metal Bridge Railing	50	ft	100%	0%	0%	0%

Element Disclaimer: NHDOT is transitioning from CoRe elements to AASHTO elements. The AASHTO element data shown above is the product of the automated element migration routine from the AASHTOWare BrM software. This migrated data has undergone limited field verification. Adequate quality control of this element data is not expected to be achieved until the conclusion of the 2020 inspection season. Please utilize element data with caution.

Bridge Notes:

Inspection Notes: 05/05/2020

TDC inspection comments -
ALUMINUM RAIL: MINOR NICKS AND SCRAPES.
SLAB/SUPER: HAIRLINE CRACK IN THE UPSTREAM FASCIA. PAVEMENT MODERATELY CRACKED. A FEW FINE CRACKS IN CURBS.
SUB: MINOR SPALLS IN WINGS, RUST STAINS; LIGHT CRACK IN SE. SMALL SCOUR HOLE AT SE ABUTMENT CORNER AT THE END OF ABUTMENT EXTENSION TOE-WALL.

PICTURE: A501-12.

Bridge Inspection Report

NBI Structure Number: 002301890010100

Berlin 189/101

Previous Inspection Notes: 05/18/2018

TDC inspection comments -
ALUMINUM RAIL: MINOR NICKS AND SCRAPES.
DECK/SUPER: HAIRLINE CRACK IN THE UPSTREAM FASCIA. PAVEMENT MODERATELY CRACKED. A FEW FINE CRACKS IN CURBS.
SUB: MINOR SPALLS IN WINGS, RUST STAINS; LIGHT CRACK IN SE. SMALL SCOUR HOLE AT SE ABUTMENT CORNER AT THE END OF ABUTMENT EXTENSION TOE-WALL.

PICTURE: A468-28.

Approach and Roadway Notes:

PAVEMENT: CRACKED, SHOULDERS SLIGHTLY SETTLED. (7)
W-BEAM APPROACH RAIL: METAL POSTS AND EAGRTS. FEW SCRAPES ON TWO BAR TRANSITIONAL RAIL.

Inspection History

Inspection Date	Inspector Initials	Inspection Type(s) Performed				Major Element Ratings				Red list	Posting
		NBI	Elem	FCM	U/W	Deck	Super	Sub	Culvert		
05/05/2020	TDC	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	7	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
05/18/2018	TDC	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	7	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
05/24/2016	MAH	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	7	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
06/09/2014	MAH	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	7	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
06/11/2012	TDC	☑	☑	☐	☐	8	8	7	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
06/15/2010	MAH	☑	☑	☐	☐	8	8	7	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
06/03/2008	WBL	☑	☑	☐	☐	8	8	8	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
06/09/2006	BEP	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	8	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
06/21/2004	WBL	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	8	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
05/22/2002	WBL	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	8	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
07/21/2000	WBL	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	8	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
06/30/1998	BEP	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	8	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
07/01/1996		☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	8	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
06/01/1994		☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	8	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
08/01/1992		☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	8	N	☐	No Posting Req'd

Inspection Frequency (mo.)			
NBI	Elem	FCM	U/W
24	24	N/A	N/A

Bridge Inspection Report

NBI Structure Number: 002301940009700

Berlin 194/097

Date of Inspection: 05/18/2018
Date Report Sent: 06/29/2018
Owner: NHDOT
Bridge Inspection Group: A-Team
Bridge Maintenance Crew: 01

NH110
over
SMALL BROOK

Recommended Postings:

Weight: **No Posting Required** ☑ Weight Sign OK

"E-2" signs no longer required. Per notice from Bureau of Traffic dated 10/10/2016, signs have been removed.

Width: **Not Required** ☑ Width Sign OK

Primary Height Sign Recommendation: *None*
Optional Centerline Height Sign Rec: *None*

Clearances: (Feet) Over: 99.99 Under: 0.00 Route: 99.99

☑ Height Sign OK

Condition:

Red List Status: Not on the Redlist
Deck: 8 Very Good
Superstructure: 8 Very Good
Substructure: 8 Very Good
Culvert: N N/A (NBI)
Sufficiency Rating: 94.3 %

Structure Type and Materials:

Number of Main Spans: 1
Number of Approach Spans: 0

Main Span Material and Design Type
Concrete/Slab

Bridge Rail: Meets Standards
Rail Transition: Meets Standards
Bridge Approach Rail: Meets Standards
Approach Rail Ends: Substandard

NH Bridge Type: CS (Concrete Slab)
Deck Type: Concrete-Cast-in-Place
Wearing Surface: Monolithic Concrete
Membrane: None
Deck Protection: Other coated Reinforcing
Curb Reveal: 6 in
Plan Location: H-15, scanned rehab plans

Bridge Dimensions:

Length Maximum Span: 10.0 ft
Left Curb/Sidewalk Width: 0.1 ft
Width Curb to Curb: 32.4 ft
Approach Roadway Width: (W/Shoulders) 28.0 ft

Total Bridge Length: 12.0 ft
Right Curb/Sidewalk Width: 0.1 ft
Total Bridge Width: 35.8 ft
Median: No median
Bridge Skew: 10.00 °
Year Built/Rebuilt: 1931/2016

Bridge Inspection Report

NBI Structure Number: 002301940009700

Berlin 194/097

Bridge Service:

Type of Service on Bridge: Highway
Type of Service Under: Waterway
Lanes on Bridge: 2
Lanes Under: 0
AADT: 2,966 Percent Trucks: 3% Year of AADT: 2018
Future AADT: 4,389 Year of Future AADT: 2040

Federal or State Definition Bridge: NH-Definition Bridge
National Highway System: Bridge does not carry NHS
Roadway Functional Class: Rural, Minor Arterial
New Hampshire Bridge Tier: 3
Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places: Possibly eligible for
Traffic Direction: 2-way traffic

National Bridge Inventory (NBI) Appraisal Ratings:

Deck Geometry: 4 Tolerable
Underclearances: N Not applicable (NBI)
Approach Alignment: 8 Equal Desirable Crit
Structural Evaluation: 8 Equal Desirable Crit
Channel/Channel Protection: 5 Bank Prot Eroded
Waterway Adequacy: 6 Equal Minimum
Bridge Scour Critical Status: 8 Stable Above Footing
Riprap Condition: Fair Condition
Debris Present: No Debris Present
Channel Notes: 48" OPENING AT STRUCTURE INLET; 46" AT STRUCTURE OUTLET. EMBANKMENT RIP RAP REPAIRS U/S AND D/S. HEAVY BANK EROSION WELL UPSTREAM.

Bridge Inspection Report

NBI Structure Number: 002301940009700

Berlin 194/097

Element Details (see disclaimer below)

No.	Description	Material Notes and Condition Notes:
38	Reinforced Concrete Slab	C.I.P. bare deck, QC/QA conc., MMFX2 reinf., tined roadway surface. MODERATE CRACK AT UPSTREAM FOGLINE. MODERATE DIRT BUILD UP IN FRONT OF CURBS.
└ 1130	Cracking (RC and Other)	MODERATE CRACK AT UPSTREAM FOGLINE.
215	Reinforced Concrete Abutment	Orig. C.I.P. abutments and U-back wings with 2016 repairs.
└ 4000	Settlement	MINOR SETTLEMENT AT THE EAST ABUTMENT EXTENSION; REPAIRED BY BOBM 2016.
330	Metal Bridge Railing	Galv. T101

Element States (see disclaimer below)

No.	Description	Quantity	Units	State 1	State 2	State 3	State 4
38	Reinforced Concrete Slab	430	sq.ft	98%	2%	0%	0%
└ 1130	Cracking (RC and Other)	8	sq.ft	0%	100%	0%	0%
215	Reinforced Concrete Abutment	105	ft	100%	0%	0%	0%
└ 4000	Settlement	1	ft	100%	0%	0%	0%
330	Metal Bridge Railing	61	ft	100%	0%	0%	0%

Element Disclaimer: NHDOT is transitioning from CoRe elements to AASHTO elements. The AASHTO element data shown above is the product of the automated element migration routine from the AASHTOWare BrM software. This migrated data has undergone limited field verification. Adequate quality control of this element data is not expected to be achieved until the conclusion of the 2020 inspection season. Please utilize element data with caution.

Bridge Notes:

5/25/2016 - REMOVED FROM SRL: NEW CONCRETE SLAB, CURBS, T-101 RAIL; ABUTMENTS AND WINGS REPAIRED BY BOBM THROUGH PROJECT 40716.

Inspection Notes: 05/18/2018

TDC inspection comments -
T-101 RAIL: NEW CONDITION.
SLAB/SUPER: EXPOSED SLAB WITH TINED FINISH; MODERATE CRACK AT UPSTREAM FOGLINE.
SUB:

PICTURE: A468-29.

Previous Inspection Notes: 05/25/2016

TDC inspection comments -
T-101 RAIL: NEW.
DECK/SUPER: NEW EXPOSED SLAB WITH TINED FINISH.
SUB: REPAIRS BY BOBM.

PICTURES: A421-61 THRU 67.

Approach and Roadway Notes:

PAVEMENT: PATCHED AND SETTLED AT APPROACHES. (7)
W-BEAM APPROACH RAIL: NEW 2016 W-BEAM, METAL POSTS AND COMPOSITE OFF SET BLOCKS.

Unusual or experimental features:

MMFX2 100ksi reinforcing in slab.

Bridge Inspection Report

NBI Structure Number: 002301940009700

Berlin 194/097

Inspection History

Inspection Date	Inspector Initials	Inspection Type(s) Performed				Major Element Ratings				Red list	Posting
		NBI	Elem	FCM	U/W	Deck	Super	Sub	Culvert		
05/18/2018	TDC	☑	☑	☐	☐	8	8	8	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
05/25/2016	TDC	☑	☑	☐	☐	9	9	8	N	☐	No Posting Req'd
04/07/2016	MAH	☑	☑	☐	☐	4	4	4	N	☑	E-2
11/04/2015	MAH	☑	☑	☐	☐	4	4	4	N	☑	E-2
04/22/2015	MAH	☑	☑	☐	☐	4	4	4	N	☑	E-2
11/20/2014	TDC	☑	☑	☐	☐	4	4	4	N	☑	E-2
06/09/2014	TDC	☑	☑	☐	☐	4	4	4	N	☑	E-2
06/11/2012	MAH	☑	☑	☐	☐	5	5	5	N	☐	E-2
06/15/2010	WBL	☑	☑	☐	☐	5	5	5	N	☐	E-2
06/03/2008	BEP	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	6	N	☐	E-2
06/09/2006	BEP	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	6	N	☐	E-2
06/21/2004	BEP	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	6	N	☐	E-2
05/22/2002	BEP	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	6	N	☐	E-2
07/21/2000	BEP	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	6	N	☐	E-2
06/30/1998	BEP	☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	6	N	☐	E-2
07/01/1996		☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	6	N	☐	E-2
06/01/1994		☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	6	N	☐	E-2
08/01/1992		☑	☑	☐	☐	7	7	6	N	☐	E-2

Inspection Frequency (mo.)			
NBI	Elem	FCM	U/W
24	24	N/A	N/A