

Engineering Services for Culvert Replacements

Kate Wallace Rd/Norford Lake Rd/Ilisley Rd

Addendum No. 1

April 9, 2024

The following questions have been answered below:

Question #1 - The schedule is going to be very tight, when would we expect the consultant selection and how quickly would the selected consultant get approval to proceed?

- a. Answer – We understand the schedule is tight, but the FEMA process currently requires the applicants to move the project rapidly forward to allow the project to be obligated and adequately funded. We expect the consultant to be approved no later than April 25, 2024, after meeting with the Town Selectboard.

Question #2 - The RFP has three submissions (30%, 90% and Final). What is the expected review duration for each submission?

- a. Answer – There are only two submissions: 60% and 90%. We expect only a day or two for a review for each submission.

Question #3 - Is the June 7th deadline for Plans and Specifications only or are permits also expected by that date?

- a. Answer – Yes, the June 7th, 2024, date is for submittal of final plans and specifications. We understand that there may be some permitting that requires a bit more lead time, but the submittal of the plans and specifications will allow the Town to move ahead with the construction bid process in a timely manner.

Question #4 - Are these projects statutorily excluded from NEPA via the Stafford Act?

- a. Answer – It is our understanding that although FEMA Public Assistance projects are not necessarily excluded from NEPA, most culvert replacement projects fall under permit exclusions. In this case the US Army Corps of Engineers delegates permit authority for culvert replacements to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation for projects involving replacements of pre-existing drainage structures which meet the General

Stream Alteration requirements. The best method to ensure regulatory compliance is to consult with the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) River Engineer.

Question #5 - I wanted to know if the Town had flexibility in the Design work being completed by June 7th? With proposals being due on 4/16, there will be time to review the proposals and make a selection. Then there will be time to work out an agreement. Assuming a Notice to Proceed at the beginning of May, the current lead time for topographic survey is 3 weeks, then there would be processing time to develop a basemap. We would also want to consider conducting subsurface investigations (borings) for ledge/poor soils. The lead time on that may be 4+ weeks. We would also propose to have environmental staff conduct a field visit to delineate natural resources (wetlands, RTE species), and that can only be done in the growing season which varies throughout the state but is generally in May. I do not see us getting to permitting and Preliminary (60%) plans until the June/July timeframe.

- a. Answer – As stated in Question #1, we understand the schedule is tight, but the FEMA process currently requires the applicants to move the project rapidly forward to allow the project to be obligated and adequately funded. We expect the consultant to be approved no later than April 25, 2024, after meeting with the Town Selectboard. We expect the survey work to be the minimal effort required to create a reliable base map. Since these gravel roads are in a constant flux due to regular plowing and grading, we expect the level of engineering effort to match its current and intended use.