

October 2, 2023

To all New Castle Residents,

The New Castle Causeway urgently needs our help! The Route 1B Causeway requires significant modifications that includes raising and widening it to prevent impassable flooding. This includes adding a pedestrian sidewalk and two bicycle lanes. The projects will improve resilience to sea level rise and both projects have made the NH-Department of Transportation's upcoming Ten-Year Plan (2025-2034). Our voices are needed to advocate that they remain on the plan and more importantly, receive the necessary funding. Since there are limited funds for all the projects approved, NC residents need to proactively ask the State for funding so these projects remain a priority.

What to do:

Request that the New Castle Causeway and Low-Lying Area Stabilization project (be added to) receive the necessary funding and remain on the NH-DOT's (Governor's) next ten-year plan. Please send a letter or email by October 19th to:

1. William E. Watson, P.E. Administrator
Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance
NH Department of Transportation
7 Hazen Drive; PO Box 483
Concord, NH 03302-0483
William.e.watsonjr@dot.nh.gov
2. William Cass, William.J.Cass@dot.nh.gov And
3. Janet Stevens @ Janet.L.Stevens@nh.gov

Please also: Attend one of the following Public Hearings:

1. Thursday, October 19th at 7pm at Greenland Central School. The meeting is hosted by the Governor's Advisory Council for Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) and you are able to speak out in support of funding and keeping this project on the Ten-Year plan (this Project). Please stress that it needs to "make the 10-year plan".

We need to pack the house and speak about how not fixing the Causeway may impact you personally and the community. Please arrange for 3-4 NC friends to join you!

2. Tuesday, Oct 24th at 7pm at Hampstead Town Hall or join the Zoom and speak up again in support of this Project being placed on the 10-year. A **Zoom link will be sent a couple of days before the meeting.**

Below are some talking points for your email or for the upcoming meetings: (Try to incorporate personal examples)

1. The Route 1B Causeway is the most heavily trafficked scenic road in NH. The Causeway is narrow and lacks a sidewalk and bike paths, which poses a serious safety hazard to pedestrians, cyclists, baby strollers, joggers, and tourists.
2. The Route 1B Causeway provides critical ingress and egress for emergency vehicles (fire, police, medical) to NC residents and visitors. Access to NC does not exist if the Route 1B Causeway is flooded because emergency vehicles cannot traverse the Wentworth Bridge (near the Wentworth By the Sea Hotel) due to weight restrictions.
3. Rising Sea level effects are a clear and present danger to the lives and livelihoods of Route 1B users. 1B's proximity to the Atlantic Ocean makes this roadway vulnerable to extreme weather events, storm surges, king tides, and coastal erosion.
 - ✓ Multiple times and most recently on December 23, 2022, the 1B Causeway and those areas on 1B were flooded by the Piscataqua River, rendering them impassable.
4. >10,000 Seacoast area residents rely on the portion of Route 1B that runs through New Castle as part of the evacuation route in the event of nuclear catastrophe at Seabrook. The lives and livelihoods of more than 1,000 NC residents rely on Route 1B Causeway as their primary and sole evacuation route.
5. The Route 1B Causeway is part of the Route 1 network of roads which plays a critical role in accelerating regional and Statewide GDP year-on-year growth. Access through the 1B Causeway will continue to fuel this growth.
6. Several crown jewels of the State of NH - it's top ranked elementary school, sole coast guard station, sole University of NH marine research facility and pier, largest seaside park (Great Island Common), a top-ranked resort (Wentworth Hotel and Marina) and golf course (Wentworth by the Sea) will be placed at risk without timely 1B Causeway Project completion.
7. More than 1,000 NC residents rely on 1B for critical connections to Portsmouth and beyond - local, nationally, and internationally.