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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9 a.m. EDT, February 7, 2014

MANCHESTER I-293 MILLYARD BRIDGES PROJECT UNDERWAY

In the fall of 2013, construction began on a 3-year, \$26.2 Million project to replace 4 red-listed bridges and rehabilitate another in and around Exit 4 on I-293. This section of the Turnpike is an important artery serving through travelers while the interchange provides access to both the west and east sides of Manchester. The roadway currently carries 75,000 vehicles a day and is often congested due to insufficient lanes and shoulder widths to meet today's design standards. Because this is a critical link in the regional highway system, one key component of the design plan was to maintain 2 lanes of through traffic in each direction to minimize disruption to the public.

To provide room to replace the existing bridges while maintaining traffic flow, additional widening was required on I-293, starting on the west side. Instead of making this widening temporary, the design utilizes this to provide permanent safety and design enhancements. It was a challenge to fit this widened roadway through this area because it is bounded on the east by the Merrimack River shoreline and on the west by existing structures including the City's West Side Pump Station, the Econolodge Hotel and the supporting piers of the Queen City Bridge. This resulted in the need to construct several retaining walls.

The widening to the west also brings the roadway closer to several residential neighborhoods. To mitigate this impact, two soundwalls will be constructed to reduce noise. Water quality issues from the addition of impervious roadway pavement area will be mitigated by a stormwater collection system to gather the surface drainage runoff and direct it into a series of treatment areas that will help clean the water before it is released into the river

While this is primarily a bridge reconstruction project, permanent roadway safety and operational improvements will include widened shoulders to accommodate breakdowns and a third lane beginning south of the existing pedestrian bridge and extending through the Exit 4 interchange. This improves safety by providing another lane to better handle merging and diverging traffic movements. A larger culvert will be provided under the Turnpike to better accommodate the drainage needs as well.

Construction work will extend through 2016 as the project progresses from west to east. There will be times when traffic will be impacted and ramps closed to allow for continued work. This will be particularly true of the Exit 4 NB On Ramp, which will be closed for several months towards the end of the project to facilitate its rehabilitation, at which point traffic will be directed to use Second Street to access the Exit 5 NB On Ramp. NHDOT and the contractor, Severino Trucking, Inc. of Candia NH are committed to keeping the public informed of anticipated travel inconveniences as much as possible. This project was designed by CLD Consulting Engineers, Inc. of Manchester NH for NHDOT.

Authored by Christopher R. Bean, President, CLD Consulting Engineers, Inc.

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