

1 Introduction

1.1 Study Purpose

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) has retained a Study Team lead by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) to conduct a Transportation Planning Study aimed at addressing capacity and safety related deficiencies along I-293/F.E. Everett Turnpike at the Exit 6 and 7 interchanges in Manchester, New Hampshire. The study also considers relocating Exit 7 into a full directional interchange. The study (Part A) is the first part of a three part process. The study will be followed by Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Documentation (Part B) and Final Design Plans (Part C), and ultimate construction.

The purpose of the study is to evaluate and establish a range of practicable alternatives for further development, and more detailed evaluation under Part B. The study includes an assessment of existing and anticipated future deficiencies as well as the development and evaluation of a range of alternatives aimed at addressing the defined deficiencies.

1.2 Study Area

The I-293 study corridor begins just north of Exit 5 (Granite Street) near the West Bridge Street overpass, winding between the Merrimack River to the east and the Amoskeag Millyard Historic District to the west. I-293 continues northerly through Exit 6 (Amoskeag Street) and Exit 7 (Front Street). The study corridor extends for approximately another mile where alternatives for a new full directional interchange replacing the existing Exit 7 are being examined. The study area is shown in **Figure 1.2-1**.

Exit 6 provides connection to the east, and Downtown Manchester, by way of the Amoskeag Bridge, and to the west and, the Town of Goffstown, by way of Goffstown Road. The Manchester Landfill and Dunbarton Road are located on the west side of I-293 just north of Exit 7. To the east of I-293 and just north of Exit 7 is the Manchester Community College campus.

1.3 Public Participation Process

An open and consensus-driven public participation process that engages all stakeholders is an important element in the development and refinement of thoughtful transportation solutions. Good planning practice involves a mutual learning process among practitioners,

elected officials, residents, business groups, citizen groups, and other affected parties. The thoughts, concerns, and ideas generated by the general public on study area transportation needs, problems, and solutions are critical to crafting and refining solutions that are practical, permissible, affordable, and context-sensitive.

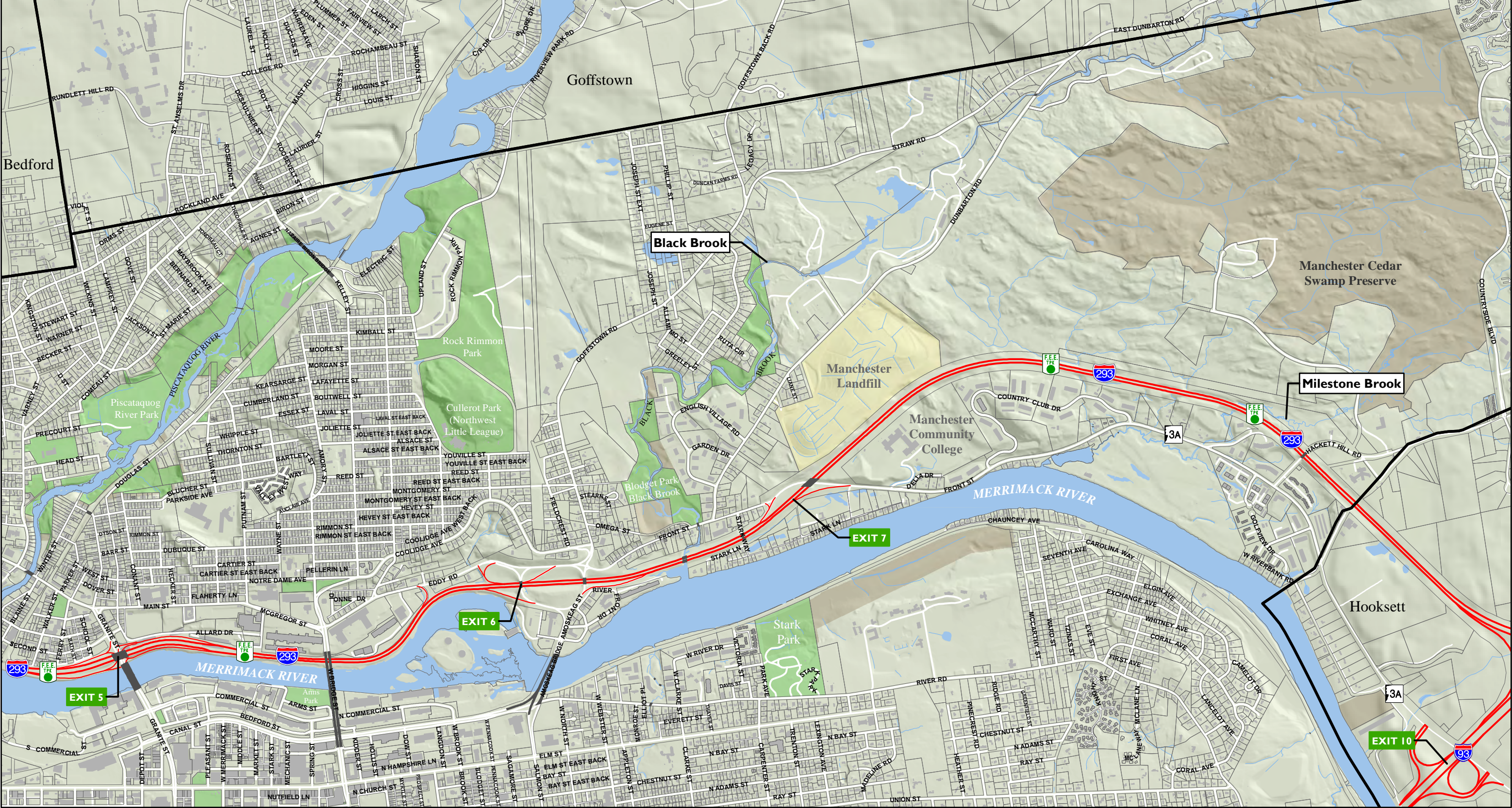
The public participation process includes holding a series of public informational meetings and the establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee, comprised of public officials, business leaders, and community representatives. A study website (www.293planningstudy.com) provides the public with an opportunity to review study documents, presentation material, and meeting notes. The website also provides video of a number of the public presentations. Most importantly, the website provides a feedback page where individuals can submit questions, comments, or ideas, and correspond thru e-mail with the Study Team. A newsletter describing the conceptual alternatives was also distributed in advance of the June 2013 public meeting, in an effort to disseminate information about the study to the widest possible audience.



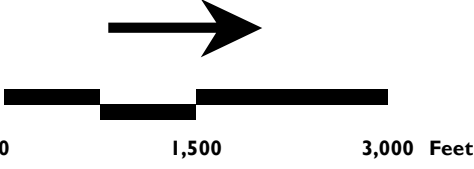
1.3.1 Technical Advisory Committee

A Technical Advisory Committee composed of public officials, business leaders, and community representatives met on a regular basis to review study progress. The Committee provided invaluable insight to the needs and desires of the communities, also serving as a “sounding board” in the development of transportation solutions. The Technical Advisory Committee members are as follows:

- Chris Wellington – City of Manchester
- David Beauchesne – City of Manchester
- Bruce Thomas – City of Manchester
- Mark Lemay – Town of Goffstown
- Carl Quiram – Town of Goffstown
- Tony Marts – Goffstown Citizen Rep
- Jo Ann Duffy – Town of Hooksett
- Leo Lessard – Town of Hooksett
- Will Stewart - Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- Barbara Cocci – Hooksett Chamber of Commerce
- Susan Huard – Manchester Community College
- Jeff Nyhan – Manchester Community College
- Tim White – Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission
- David Boutin – State Senator, District 16



- Legend**
- Assessor's Tax Parcels
 - Building
 - Surface Water
 - Stream
 - City Park Land
 - Conservation/Public Land
 - Bridge
 - Town/City Boundary



VHB Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

**Manchester I-293
FEET/I-293, Exit 6-7 Planning Study**

**Figure 1.2-1
Study Area**

Manchester, NH

New Hampshire
DOT
Department of Transportation

In addition to the community members, the Committee included representatives from the NHDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Nine Advisory Committee meetings were held, as summarized in Table 1.3-1.

Table 1.3-1 Technical Advisory Committee Meetings

Meeting	Date	Topics
1	June 27, 2012	Study area and study purpose, study schedule, and study process.
2	August 13, 2012	Committee feedback on July 18 th public meeting; review comments/ideas submitted through website; future year traffic projections; discussion on September workshop
3	September 26, 2012	Review input from September 18 th public workshop; discuss preliminary interchange configuration ideas
4	December 4, 2012	Discussion on and advanced look at material that will be presented at December 12 th public meeting
5	January 31, 2012	Review feedback from December public meeting; recap of potential alternatives; discussion on traffic volume demand and diversion; discussion on conceptual design issues; video presentation on Diverging Diamond Interchanges (DDI)
6	February 28, 2013	Overview of decision making process; evaluation criteria, traffic volume projections for each alternative; update on the status of conceptual designs
7	April 10, 2013	Review of conceptual alternatives, preview of traffic simulations, discussion on the results of the evaluation matrix
8	June 20, 2013	Review feedback from June 11 th public meeting, results of mini-O/D survey conducted at Exit 6, discuss steps to complete study
9	November 14, 2013	Review and discuss summary report

1.3.2 Public Informational Meetings

Five public informational meetings were held for the purpose of sharing information with, and soliciting input from, the public. Four meetings were held within the study area at Manchester Community College located on Front Street. The final meeting was held at the Manchester City Hall. Each meeting included a formal presentation followed by time for the public to share their thoughts and ask questions. The second public meeting (September 18, 2012) used a informal workshop-type format where attendees had an opportunity to interact one-on-one with the Study Team. While visiting various stations that were set up in the meeting room, attendees were asked to help define the study area problems, issues and constraints, and potential solutions.



The dates and topics for each of the public meetings are summarized in Table 1.3-2.

Table 1.3-2. Public Informational Meetings

Meeting	Date	Topics
1	July 18, 2012	Review of the study area, study purpose, and study schedule; results of the existing data collection; and public involvement plan
2	September 18, 2012	Workshop format where attendees provide input on problems, issues and constraints, and potential solutions
3	December 12, 2012	Results of the existing and future deficiency analyses and a presentation on the initial alternatives
4	June 11, 2013	Presentation and discussion on the results of the alternatives evaluation
5	December 11, 2013	Study findings and next steps

1.3.3 Project Website and Other Media

Website

A study website (www.293planningstudy.com) was created to ensure the public access to study related material. The website provided an overview of the study process, the study schedule and numerous documents such as traffic flow networks and resource maps. Interactive mapping allows visitors to view the various conceptual alternatives on aerial maps, overlaid with selected resource data. The site also provides a record of all meeting notes, as well as video of three public meetings. Most importantly, the website provides a feedback page where individuals can submit questions, comments, or ideas, and correspond thru e-mail with the Study Team.

Email Updates

The Study Team maintains an e-mail distribution list, which includes the e-mail addresses of members of the public who voluntarily submitted their e-mail addresses through the website or at public meetings. Throughout the study notices and reminders of upcoming meetings and other material, such as project newsletters, were e-mailed to those on the distribution list. Additionally, some members of the public corresponded directly with the Study Team sharing their questions, comments, and ideas.

Newsletter

In advance of the June 2013 Public Informational meeting, a four-page study newsletter was published and distributed in May. The newsletter describes and illustrates mainline and interchange alternatives that were to be presented and discussed at the public meeting. Copies of the newsletter were made available at the Manchester City Hall, the Goffstown Town Hall, the Hooksett Town Hall, the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the Hooksett Chamber of Commerce, and

the NHDOT. The newsletter was also posted on the study website and distributed electronically to those on the e-mail distribution list.

