

**Sugar Hill, New Hampshire
Public Hearing on Roads
February 25, 2013**

Basic Information on Sugar Hill Roads and Road Expenditures

Table 1 Primary Roads in Sugar Hill

Major Roads	Total Paved Miles	Roughness			Condition					Gravel
		Good	Fair	Poor	A	B	C	D	E	
Miles of Paved Roads	23.6	16.6	6.4	0.6	6.3	5.1	6.5	2.9	2.7	1.6
% of Paved Roads		70%	27%	3%	27%	22%	28%	12%	11%	
Birches Road	1.8	1.5	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Blake Road	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.1	1.3
Carpenter Road	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0
Center District Road	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.0
Crane Hill	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0
Dyke Road	1.3	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Easton Road	2.6	1.5	1.1	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.0
Hadley Road	1.8	1.0	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.0
Jesseman Road	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lafayette/South Roads	2.2	1.0	1.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.0
Lovers Lane	2.0	1.5	0.4	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.0
Pearl Lake Road	1.9	1.6	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2
Peckett's Crossing	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Streeter Pond Road	2.4	1.7	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.0
Sunset Hill Road	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Toad Hill Road	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: inspection by Committee, November 2012

Table 2 Secondary Roads (Residential)

Major Roads	Total Paved Miles	Condition					Gravel	Buildings
		A	B	C	D	E		
Total	1.1	0.7	0	0.2	0.2	0	3.0	
Percent of Paved		64%	0%	18%	18%	0%		
Creamery Pond Road							0.6	2
Grand View Road	0.2			0.2			0.8	8
Jericho/Trumpet Round Roads	0.3	0.3					0.0	4
Nason Road	0.3	0.3					0.0	5
Post Road	0.1	0.1					0.3	9
Presby Road							0.5	2
Streeter Pond Drive							0.5	29
Valley Vista	0.2				0.2		0.3	8

Source: inspection by Committee, November 2012

Table 3 Sugar Hill Highway Department Expenditures, 2006 to 2011 (thousands)

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 Budget
Actual Expenditures							
Town Maintenance (labor & benefits)	\$116.3	\$124.2	\$129.3	\$141.4	\$149.1	\$163.7	176.7
General Highway Department Expense (materials, supplies & contractors)	\$107.1	\$115.2	\$134.7	\$124.8	\$108.5	\$116.9	\$87.9
Highway Department Roadwork Non-Lapsing Fund (per budget, 2007 to 2012)	\$63.6	\$50.0	\$50.0	\$50.0	\$75.0	\$75.0	\$75.0
FEMA Grant (for excavator)		\$39,546					
Highway Block Grant	\$45.0	\$43.3	\$44.5	\$46.7	\$49.4	\$52.6	45.9
Street Lighting	\$6.7	\$7.3	\$7.5	\$7.9	\$8.6	\$9.0	9.1
Highway Department Equipment (CRF)	\$37.4	\$57.1	\$54.9	\$0	\$81.3	\$90.8	N.A.
Bridges (CRF)			\$2.2	\$8.1	\$93.7	\$0	N.A.
Highway Building (CRF)						\$2.5	N.A.
Total, General Highway plus Roadwork Non-Lapsing Fund	\$170.7	\$165.2	\$184.7	\$174.8	\$183.5	\$191.9	\$163.0
Total, Not Including CRF for equipment & bridges	\$338.7	\$379.5	\$366.1	\$370.9	\$390.5	\$417.3	\$394.6
Total Highways, Streets and Bridge Expenditures	\$376.1	\$436.6	\$423.2	\$370.0	\$565.6	\$510.6	N.A.

Source of data: Sugar Hill Annual Reports

Table 4 Town Revenues and Warrant Articles Related to Roads

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 Budget
Grants & Fees							
Highway Block Grant (State of NH)	\$45.0	\$43.2	\$44.5	\$46.7	\$49.4	\$52.6	\$45.9
Motor Vehicle Permit Fees (residents)	\$137.5	\$134.4	\$142.4	\$133.7	\$130.1	\$122.6	\$120.0
FEMA Grant (used for excavator)		\$39.5					
Warrant Articles							
Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Funds	\$40.0	\$40.0	\$50.0	\$50.0	\$50.0	\$50.0	\$50.0
Highway Department Roadwork Non-Lapsing Fund	\$50.0	\$50.0	\$50.0	\$50.0	\$75.0	\$75.0	\$75.0
Bridge CRF	\$10.0	\$50.0	\$50.0	\$50.0	\$50.0	\$10.0	\$10.0
Building CRF						\$2.5	\$5.0

Source of data: Sugar Hill Annual Reports

Table 5 Balances in Highway Department Capital Reserve Funds as of December 31st

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Highway Equipment CRF	\$3,879	\$27,121	\$22,865	\$73,005	\$41,843	\$1,074
Bridges CRF	\$10,198	\$61,774	\$111,099	\$153,437	\$110,483	\$120,130
Building CRF				\$5,000	\$10,000	\$12,496

Source of data: Sugar Hill Annual Reports

Table 6 Major Road Projects in Recent Years

2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pave a portion of Pearl Lake Road • Shim coats on a portion of Pearl Lake Road and Hadley Road • Pave the hill on Lover's Lane from Route 117 to Peckett's Cross Road • Major clean up on Jericho Road due to storm damage • Acquired a Komatsu Excavator with funds from FEMA grant, which allows more flexibility in repairs and drainage work (previously rented equipment for two months per year)
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlarged ditch lines on Lafayette Road and 700' of Carpenter Road and lined them with stone • Removed a row of trees on Pearl Lake Road, allowing room for proper drainage • Resurfaced Pearl Lake Road from Creamery Pond to the sharp turn after Post Road as well as the short section where the trees were removed
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurfaced the worst portions of Pearl Lake Road, Crane Hill Road, Toad Hill Road and Easton Road, as these roads needed immediate attention. • Completed drainage projects to prepare for resurfacing in 2010
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed work on Indian Creek Bridge • Shimming all of Toad Hill Road and parts of Easton Road, Crane Hill Road, and Streeter Pond Road • Completed ditching and shimming on Hadley Road • Completed ditch work on Grandview Road • Repair a short portion of Streeter Pond Road with hot mix asphalt near the intersection of Valley Vista • Obtained a new truck that is able to clear roads to full width and sand in one pass, cutting costs of snow removal
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paving projects completed on Jericho Road, Trumpet Round Road, a portion of Dyke Road, Nason Road, and a piece of Crane Hill Road. • Replaced a number of large culverts
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurface a portion of Dyke Road • Replace more large culverts • Surfaced a portion of Grandview Road and Dyke Road (from Jericho Road to Presby Road) with cold mix asphalt • Ground the last quarter mile of Pearl Lake Road • Applied a shim and an overlay on Sunset Hill Road from the intersection with Lafayette Road to the end

Source of data: Sugar Hill Annual Reports

Issues Facing the Highway Department:

- Planning highway projects:
 - It is impossible to plan work for the year before the end of winter, when it is possible to identify which locations require immediate maintenance and to determine the resources that will be available for road projects during the rest of the year.
 - How can the department best maintain the flexibility to deal with unexpected problems (e.g. washouts) while also keeping pace with necessary repairs and rehabilitation of roads and drainage?
- Priorities:
 - What are the priorities for short- and long-term road investments?
 - When and where is it reasonable to consider rebuilding roads?
 - When and where is it reasonable to convert paved roads with low traffic volume into gravel roads?
 - Considerations include the need for safe bus routes, the need for emergency access for all locations, safety, traffic volumes, current and projected condition of roads, costs of maintenance activities, and life cycle costs. What is most important?
- Funding:
 - Would the town be willing to support a more ambitious program for upgrading Sugar Hill roads that could be financed by issuing bonds?
 - Will state support for local roads continue to decline, or will the state decide to increase the gas tax or take other steps to increase revenues for local road projects?
- Role of the Highway Committee
 - Should the committee schedule regular annual or semi-annual meetings on roads?
 - Would you be interested in participating in long-range planning for Sugar Hill roads?