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Construction Advisory: Week of May 31 – June 5, 2010

## **Work to begin June 1 on North Main Street Bridge project**

**Rochester, NH** – The North Main Street Bridge will close to all vehicle and pedestrian traffic on Tuesday, June 1, as bridge construction crews begin work to preserve the 127-year-old structure.

Wyman & Simpson of Richmond, Maine, and its subcontractor S.U.R. Construction of Rochester have been at work in recent weeks setting up signage and marking pavement in preparation for the closure. A detour will lead traffic around the construction site. Only the bridge will be closed. Patrons will be able to access businesses on North Main Street near both ends of the bridge throughout the anticipated 105-day bridge closure schedule.

“We may have to limit traffic for safety reasons when there will be heavy equipment or materials moving into and out of the construction site,” said Brian MacFawn, project manager for Wyman & Simpson, “but we anticipate those delays being brief.”

The detour will take traffic over the Cocheco River via Bridge Street near the intersection of Union and North Main streets. From there, motorists can connect to Farmington via Route 11 and Concord via Route 202.

Also, signs recently went up regarding new parking restrictions on River Street between Bridge and Chestnut Streets. No parking will be permitted anywhere on River Street between Bridge and Chestnut Streets between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. The city has said the parking restrictions will be strictly enforced during the bridge closure.

MacFawn said that during the few first days, most of the activity will involve setting the stage for the bridge rehabilitation work to come. Temporary barricades at both ends of the bridge will go into place on June 1. Concrete barriers will be set into place on Wednesday, June 2. By June 7, crews will help erect a banner that is being prepared for the project by local businesses.

Rochester’s three-arched North Main Street Bridge was designed and built between 1881 and 1883 by Silas Hussey, Jr., the city’s master stonecutter. Its 50-foot width was uncommon at the time. The heavy brick arches are faced with split granite and make this bridge unique in New Hampshire. The historic structure crosses the Cocheco River, one of 16 protected rivers in the state, and serves as a gateway to the city’s downtown district. The original cost for the bridge construction \$13,800 in the late 1800s. The budget for engineering, rehabilitation of the bridge and additional road reconstruction is \$2.2 million.

For more information about the bridge closure, visit the [Rochester Public Works Department bridge web site](#) or [Facebook page](#).

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