

Frequently Asked Questions

About the Plans for the Boscawen Roundabout Project

Q. Why are we making changes to the roundabout?

A. The roundabout improvement project removes an eyesore for 15,000 daily commuters from area towns and seasonal visitors and creates a uniquely NH landscape with local plants and materials, while encouraging economic development, through signage, to promote local agricultural products and small businesses. The placement of the American Flag in the circle provides a positive initial impression of our town.

Q. Doesn't the State own the roundabout?

A. Yes, the State of New Hampshire retains control of their property. However, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) does not have funding to maintain the roundabout, except to mow annually. The NHDOT and the Town of Boscawen have an agreement to maintain the roundabout for our mutual benefit. Each step in the project plan is reviewed and approved by the NHDOT to ensure our town conforms to relevant laws and regulations. At the end of the day, it is in the mutual interest of both our town and the NHDOT to support the success of this project.

Q. With plans for a supermarket and liquor store to be built in Concord at Exit 17, are their plans to reengineer the Boscawen roundabout and make it bigger?

A. Our Town officials are monitoring the anticipated changes across the Merrimack at Exit 17. Currently, there are no proposals that will alter the configuration of the Boscawen roundabout.

Q. Is Boscawen tax money being used to pay for the work?

A. No tax funds are being used for the roundabout. Out of pocket expenses are paid with grant funds. Volunteers along with donations from community members and local businesses cover other needs. The town support includes accounting, administrative services and assistance from Public Works and the Police Department.

Q. Who is making the decisions of what is being done at the roundabout?

A. The Boscawen Circle Committee was approved to implement the Boscawen Roundabout Project as an Advisory Committee to the Select Board on June 11, 2020. Members are: John Keegan, Chair, Julie Fournier, Secretary, Jeff Abbe and Beverly Baer Drouin. One of our Selectman, Paul Dickie, is an ex-officio member. All the plans must be approved by our town's Select Board.

Q. Who did the site work that has already been completed at the roundabout?

A. We are very appreciative of three local landscaping companies, MDM Property Management, Thompson Lawn Care and Raymond Landscaping & Excavation. They donated labor and equipment to prep the roundabout for this project.

Q. What was included in the Phase I plans?

A. Phase I included the installation of a 30 foot flag pole in the center of the roundabout with a 5'x 8' American flag lit with solar powered lights. The entire roundabout has five inches of new topsoil covered with bark mulch with cutouts for three gardens. The Welcome to Boscawen sign was relocated to the roundabout in addition to planting over 700 flower bulbs.

Q. When was Phase I completed?

A. Phase I was completed by November 15th per the NHDOT deadline. The flagpole was installed in time for Veteran's Day.

Q. Who will take the flag up and down?

A. Because the flag is lit, it will stay up most of the time. The police officer who currently cares for the three Boscawen town flags will add this flag to his responsibilities. He is a military veteran and follows proper flag protocol.

Q. Can we put a NH State flag on the same flagpole as the American flag?

A. The Select Board has decided to fly only the American Flag for a year. At years' end they will decide if the NH State Flag will be added.

Q. What if someone hits the flag pole? Isn't this dangerous?

A. NHDOT specifications were followed based on the agreement signed in December 2019.

Q. I see in the drawing that the Committee is planning to plant trees. I am concerned they will obstruct my view.

A. There are no plans for trees in the roundabout.

Q. I see in the drawing that the Committee included stone walls, which sounds dangerous to me. Are there plans for stone walls?

A. Phase I does not include stone walls. Stonework has been discussed with NHDOT which limited height to 22" on stonework. Phase II does not include stonework.

Q. How much money is needed for Phase II and how can I donate?

A. Because we want the plantings to be low maintenance, an irrigation system will be installed in Phase II at a cost of approximately \$8,000. Plants and related materials are estimated to cost \$2,700 bringing the total cost to \$10,700. There is \$3,100 in the project account resulting in the need to raise \$7,600 to complete Phase II in the spring. You can donate by sending a check to:

Atten: Katie Phelps, Boscawen Roundabout Project
Town of Boscawen
116 North Main St.
Boscawen, NH 03303

Q. Aren't you concerned the trucks will run over your gardens?

- A. Though this is always a possibility, all the gardens are set back more than seven feet from the roundabouts truck apron.
- Q. I see in the drawing that there are bushes. Will these obstruct my view?
- A. NHDOT will not permit view to be obstructed based on the regulations the Circle Committee must abide by. The Phase II planting scheme is being developed with the assistance of NHDOT, a professional garden planner and a local garden supply center. The design will conform to NHDOT requirements.
- Q. What money and other support has the Boscawen Roundabout Committee raised or received so far?
- A. To date the Committee raised over \$9,500 from Franklin Savings Bank, Concord Rotary Club, Pete & Gerry's Organic Eggs, Marshall's Florist, Adele Sanborn, the Woodbury Fund, Ross Express and Huckleberry Propane & Oil. In addition, goods and services have been provided by: GMI, Colby Lumber, Black Forest Nursery, Unitil, Raymond Landscaping & Excavation, Thomson Lawn Care, MDM Property Management, Dale Mathews, Angela Swyers, Flags Over America, Boscawen Public Works and Police Departments with significant support from local volunteers.
- Q. Who will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the roundabout?
- A. Our town will be responsible for ongoing maintenance which will be handled by volunteers. If you would like to volunteer please contact Kearsten O'Brien at the town office 753-9188 Ext. 2325
- Q. What are the plans for maintenance?
- A. The Committee's goal is that the roundabout be low maintenance which will include a spring and fall cleanup and a mid-summer touch up.