



**Project Location:** The crossing of Lake Champlain along US Route 2 between the Towns of North Hero and Grand Isle, and includes the causeway and Bridge 8.

### North Hero-Grand Isle BRF 0281-1(18) SC Project Description

The North Hero-Grand Isle Bridge 8 is the only vehicular connection between the two islands, and provides unrestricted vertical clearance for marine traffic traveling east-west along Lake Champlain. Bridge 8 is a double leaf bascule bridge and is the only working highway drawbridge in the state of Vermont. The project was originally constructed in 1953, and it has been rehabilitated in 1996 and 2007.

### PROJECT MILESTONES

- Final Scoping Report  
May 2015
- Public Information Meeting  
Fall 2015
- Preliminary Plans  
February 2016
- Bid Advertisement  
2017

The project has completed the scoping phase of the VTrans Program Development Process. Scoping is a process that develops safe and effective alternatives that meet the stated purpose and need of the project while minimizing environmental impacts. The final scoping report was completed this past Spring, and a preferred alternative was selected. The preferred alternative is a new twin leaf bascule structure on the existing alignment (Alternative II – Option A of the final scoping report). Visit the project website to read the full scoping report and view renderings of the preferred alternative: [nhgi.vtransprojects.vermont.gov](http://nhgi.vtransprojects.vermont.gov)

Public input during the scoping phase was gathered at a local concerns meeting and through a direct mail public survey. This information was used in the development of design alternatives, and for the selection of the preferred alternative.

VTrans contracted with HDR Engineering (HDR) out of Boston, MA to complete the scoping report as well as lead the design effort. Pete Davis, P.E., HDR's movable Bridge Program Leader, is the Project Manager. Conceptual Design plans have been developed and preliminary plans will be complete by February 2016.





### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### *When does the drawbridge operate and how many cars use it?*

The drawbridge begins service May 15th, and runs from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day until Oct. 15th. It sees about 3000 cars pass through daily during the off-season with that number doubling during the summer and fall months.

#### *What are the alternatives being considered?*

Rehabilitation of the existing drawbridge or replacement of the existing bridge with a new drawbridge, either on the existing alignment or on a new adjacent alignment.

#### *Is this the only drawbridge in Vermont?*

There are three drawbridges in Vermont. The North Hero-Grand Isle drawbridge is the only drawbridge in the highway system. The other two are railroad bridges; a turntable in Alburgh-Swanton that is operable and the other is located within the rail yard in Burlington but it is welded shut.

#### *What happens once the Scoping Report is complete?*

Once the Scoping Report is complete and a preferred alternative has been identified, the project moves on to the development of Conceptual Plans. These plans include basic design, alignment, and any special features. These plans are used for environmental studies and documentation.

### Public Outreach Manager and Coordinator

Mary O'leary of EIV Technical Services (EIV), acting as a subconsultant to HDR Engineering, is serving as the team's public outreach manager. She is supported by a public outreach coordinator, Jacqueline Dagesse, who is also from EIV. Together they will be working with the local towns, community members, businesses, and other stakeholders to provide clear and concise information to enable the public to make informed decisions about the project.

During the public comment period, contact information will be posted. Should a question or issue arise prior to a project meeting or the public comment period, you may contact Jacqueline Dagesse at (802) 497-3653 or [jdagesse@eivtech.com](mailto:jdagesse@eivtech.com).

**Updates and project information will also be posted on our project website:**

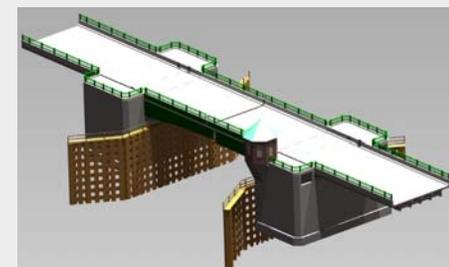
[nhgi.vtransprojects.vermont.gov](http://nhgi.vtransprojects.vermont.gov)



Control Tower



Drawbridge Construction 1952



Rendering of Preferred Alternative (2015)

[nhgi.vtransprojects.vermont.gov](http://nhgi.vtransprojects.vermont.gov)



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