

ON THE MOVE

New Hampshire Department of Transportation Newsletter



Winter 2019



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New Approach Used for Emergency Repair Project on NH 118 in Warren

The picturesque Baker River winds along parts of NH Route 118 in Warren. The usually peaceful river became a raging torrent during a storm in October 2017, washing away an embankment and an entire lane of NH 118 for about 100 yards.

A year later work began on an emergency repair project to reconstruct that section of roadway back to two lanes while stabilizing and shoring up the embankment.

The conventional repair would be to reconstruct the embankment, armor it with stone, and build a retaining wall in what is a tight location adjoining the river. But the NHDOT decided to take a different approach to be used for the first time in New Hampshire.

“It would have been very difficult to anchor stone into the river bed because of exposed bedrock and the smooth surface,” says Pete Stamnas, NHDOT’s Director of Project Development. “There was concern a typical repair utilizing a stone armored slope would be an ongoing issue, and we wanted to minimize the risk of further erosion.”

This new approach suggested by NHDOT geologist Krystle Pelham still involved using stone fill, but wrapping it in a heavy duty chain link fence-type blanket (TECCO) and also anchoring it into bedrock and the slope with soil nails. The soil nails are tensioned and locked into place with armor plates placed on the surface of the TECCO mesh blanket to tie it all together.”

The alternative was also more constructible during winter months since it involved stone and earth work rather than concrete placement.

Weaver Brothers Construction is the contractor for the \$2.34 million project, which has a final completion date of June 28, 2019.

