

# PUBLIC NOTICE RE: POTENTIAL CLOSURE AND ALTERNATIVE DETOUR ROUTES FOR HUBBARD ROAD

**NOTE: for detour alternatives, please see separate but related PDF posted to Town's public notices tab on the website, or contact Town Manager Patrick Venne at [townmanager@berwickmaine.org](mailto:townmanager@berwickmaine.org) or 207-698-1101**

On October 15<sup>th</sup> the Town held a staff level meeting with representatives from Maine Department of Transportation regarding the relatively recent slope failure/washout/closure of Hubbard Road near the so-called "S Curve along the river. At that meeting, the Town learned the following:

DOT needs to reconstruct this road, and is doing so on the basis of emergency as opposed to a project planned within its budget. Its options are to either entirely close the road sometime next spring or summer, to enable construction which would last about 1-2 months, or alternatively to keep one lane of alternating traffic open, in which case construction would last about 2-4 months. DOT has not yet made a final decision on this matter and wanted to hear from the Town first.

From a safety perspective, the Town's primary concerns relate to response times for ambulance service and local public safety responders. The use of automatic mutual aid from communities including Lebanon and Rochester was discussed with respect to all public safety services to address this concern. Additional matters discussed included length of potential detours (which are formal requirements of construction projects of this nature handled by the DOT), and whether any land may need to be acquired by use of eminent domain procedures. The DOT at this time believes there are several parcels of property, including one Town-owned piece of land, which may be impacted by its plan to relocate the road away from the river.

At this meeting, it was emphasized to those present that a formal public hearing, to learn feedback from the community directly, would also be important. DOT indicated such a meeting would take place in the future. Present at the meeting were: the Town's Planner, a representative from its comprehensive plan implementation committee, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Ambulance Service provider, Superintendent of Schools, and Town Manager.

With questions please contact Town Manager Patrick Venne at [townmanager@berwickmaine.org](mailto:townmanager@berwickmaine.org) or contact Town Hall at 207-698-1101. Information for relevant DOT contacts will be provided to those interested based on nature of inquiry.