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PRESS RELEASE

Bethel (May 27, 2014) At a conference on Friday, May 23rd between town and state transportation officials, engineers and the project contractor, the Town was informed that it will not be possible to reopen the Walnut Hill Bridge to traffic before May 30th, as predicted previously by the contractor's engineers. They noted that the long winter, heavy snow and ongoing spring rains have slowed the pace of construction and caused the moisture content in the roadway base material to be too high to allow proper compaction prior to paving. About 350 tons of base material must still to be moved into place and compacted, a process that cannot be completed in rainy weather.

Following the conference, a ranking official with lead contractor J. Iapaluccio, Inc. issued the following statement:

"The weather has continued to create delays due to the excessive moisture content in the process aggregate and sub base material. The rain water collects on the surface and ultimately saturates the sub base material. The excess moisture prevents the ability to compact the sub base and process to the required density. As soon as the sub base material dries out, we will continue to compact the sub base to the proper density and bring in additional process to form the road base prior to paving. We intend to continue road construction and material placement Tuesday (May 27th) morning."

Further updates will be posted as new information becomes available.

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