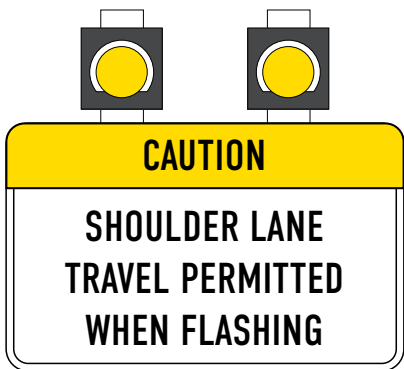




# PISCATAQUA RIVER BRIDGE DYNAMIC PART-TIME SHOULDER USE (PTSU) SYSTEM



## WHAT IS HAPPENING TO I-95/MAINE TURNPIKE AT THE PISCATAQUA RIVER BRIDGE?

Anyone who regularly travels along I-95 on summer weekends is familiar with the congestion that occurs at the Piscataqua River Bridge. To ease congestion on I-95 during peak travel periods, New Hampshire and Maine have agreed to allow the right shoulder of the road to be used as an open travel lane over the Piscataqua River Bridge and for a couple of miles along each approach. This concept, known as part-time shoulder use (PTSU), can be turned on and off as traffic conditions require, using lane use signals to electronically indicate when the shoulder is open for travel. Once tested and accepted by the **New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT)**, the **Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT)**, and the **Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA)**, the system will be utilized during heavy traffic periods.



## SYSTEM TESTING BEGINNING SOON

NHDOT in partnership with MaineDOT and MTA will begin system testing for the new dynamic part-time shoulder use system along I-95 between Portsmouth and Kittery soon. During this phase, the system's components, functionality and performance will be tested. You may observe that the new electronic displays along the shoulder of I-95 will turn on and off during this phase. Message boards will be posted along the corridor to remind drivers that the system is still being tested. Please note that the shoulder remains closed to through traffic during testing and should only be used for emergencies.

When testing is nearing completion, NHDOT, MaineDOT, and MTA will alert drivers of the expected date when the system will be ready to "Go Live to Ease Your Ride." We appreciate your patience during this testing phase. If you have questions about the system, please check the project website for more information: [www.buildingabettergateway.com](http://www.buildingabettergateway.com)

**Project Start Date**  
8/29/2021

**Total Project Cost**  
\$9.5M

**Funding**  
3-way Split (NHDOT, MaineDOT, MTA)

**Contractor**  
Green Mountain Communication, Inc.

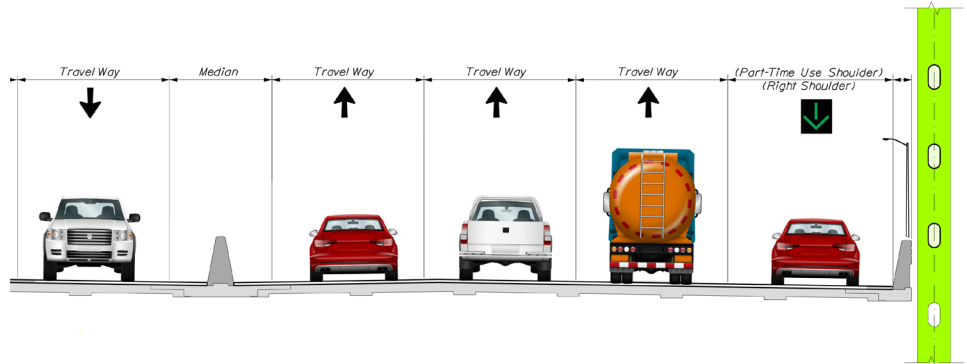
# HOW DOES DYNAMIC PART-TIME SHOULDER USE (PTSU) WORK?



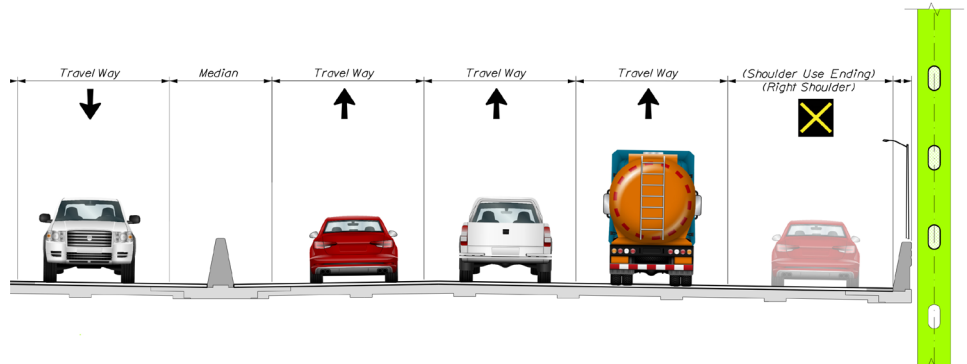
Over the past several months, New Hampshire and Maine have been installing several traffic control and monitoring devices along the section of I-95 from New Hampshire's Exit 5 to Maine's Exit 3. There will also be warning signs with flashing beacons at the on-ramps approaching the system to alert merging traffic when the shoulder lane is open for travel and to use extra caution when merging into the highway. The system will be controlled and monitored by operators at the Transportation Management Centers (TMCs) in New Hampshire and Maine. For more information, visit [www.buildingabettergateway.com](http://www.buildingabettergateway.com)



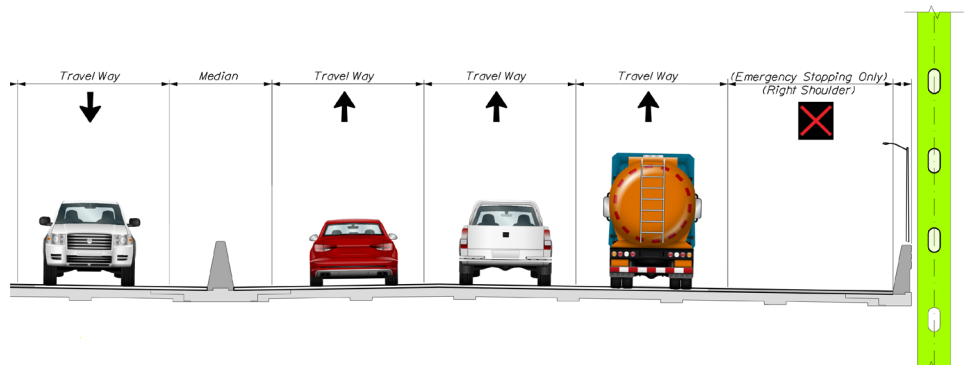
When the PTSU system is activated, the lane use signals will display a **green arrow symbol** that means the shoulder is available for use as a travel lane.



When the shoulder lane is transitioning from a travel lane back to an emergency stopping only shoulder, the lane use signals will display a **yellow X symbol** to warn drivers who are in the shoulder to exit the shoulder and to warn approaching traffic not to enter the shoulder for travel even if there are currently vehicles using the shoulder.



The traffic control devices include lane use signals that will normally display a **red X symbol** that designates the shoulder is available for emergency stopping only.



Stay Informed: [dot.nh.gov](http://dot.nh.gov)

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