



## Meeting Notes

Place: Conant High School Music Room

Date: April 4, 2022

Notes Taken by: P. Blum

Project #: 52792.00

Re: Jaffrey US 202 Improvements  
#16307  
School Board Meeting

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Marty Kennedy with VHB thanked the Board for the opportunity to discuss the US 202 project. He introduced others in attendance including Tobey Reynolds - Chief Project Manager at NHDOT, Marlon Austin - NHDOT Project Manager on the Town managed sidewalk project, and Phil Blum with VHB.

Mr. Kennedy provided a brief overview of the US 202 project by first describing the existing problems of traffic congestion at the dogleg signalized Main Street intersections and the challenges faced by pedestrians crossing the expansive Main Street/ Peterborough Street 5-leg intersection. He proceeded to discuss the history of the project, the public outreach effort, and described the proposed improvements, which include the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Main Street, Peterborough Street, Turnpike Road, Stratton Road, and Blake Street. Additionally, US 202 will be relocated so as to cross the Contoocook River intersecting River Street at a proposed three-leg roundabout.

Mr. Kennedy proceeded to describe how vehicles and pedestrians will maneuver through the roundabout. Crosswalks at the roundabout are laid out so that pedestrians cross one travel lane (approx. 12') and one direction at a time after the motorist comes to a full stop. Mr. Kennedy stressed that the intent of the project is to make the downtown more pedestrian friendly by changing the "look and feel" of the downtown causing motorists to reduce their travel speeds to approx. 15 mph because they expect to encounter and yield to pedestrians.

The following questions/comments were raised by members on the School Board and by individuals attending the meeting via Zoom:

**Will you be providing rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) at the roundabout crosswalks?**

*Answer - RRFB's are generally used at mid-block crosswalks where travel speeds and driver expectations tend to be an issue, and not at single lane roundabouts where the design of the roundabout has already reduced travel speeds and raised driver expectation to the presence of pedestrians. For that reason, the current plan does not include RRFBs at the roundabout.*

**What is the timeline for construction on the project?**

*Answer - We hope to have the design complete by the end of this year. Bridge construction and the River Street roundabout are anticipated to begin in the Winter of 2023. The River Street roundabout is anticipated to be completed by Fall 2024. Construction on the Main Street roundabout is scheduled to begin in the Summer of 2025 with construction of the new US 202 Connector Road planning to begin construction in the Fall of 2025. Ultimately, the construction is scheduled to be completed by Summer 2026. When we get further along with the design, we'll be preparing and be presenting at future meetings a construction traffic control plan.*

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**Won't installing a 4-way stop condition at the North St/River St intersection delay buses as they will need to stop at the intersection?**

*Answer – Again, our goal is to enhance pedestrian safety and mobility by slowing vehicular traffic. That means that buses, like all vehicles, will stop at the 4-way stop-controlled North St/River St intersection and be processed one bus at a time as opposed to today where they all flow through on the green light.*

**Has the design of the roundabout considered any special accommodations for visually impaired pedestrians?**

*Answer – This issued had not been raised at meetings prior to this. VHB will look into this and provide an update in the future.*

**Are there any roundabouts elsewhere in NH that would provide a similar example of what the proposed roundabout here would look like?**

*Answer – Each roundabout is different, but the NHDOT's website <https://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/highwaydesign/roundabouts/index.htm> does provide a list, including pictures, of roundabouts throughout New Hampshire. It was suggested that there are roundabouts in Plymouth, NH, Goffstown, NH and in Manchester, VT that might be somewhat similar with regard to traffic and pedestrian activity.*

**Would the roundabout have raised curb?**

*Answer – Yes, raised curb will be used. Additionally, a truck apron will be installed that would allow larger trucks to mount the curb to make the necessary turning movement.*

**Who provides crossing guards to help with crosswalk operations?**

*Answer – The Town and the school district currently share the cost of providing crossing guards. There was some discussion on whether an additional crossing guard might be needed during construction or at least initially while students are adjusting to crossing at the roundabout. Mr. Kennedy suggested that, if it would be helpful, perhaps we could provide the school some educational material (pamphlets, etc.) on how to cross a roundabout that could be distributed to students.*

**Please provide an update on the sidewalk project?**

*Jo Anne Carr explained that a separate project to construct new sidewalks will be provided along both sides of Stratton Road up to the school driveway. The project will include curbing and striping and is expected to be constructed in the summer of 2023.*

**Can School Board members be added to the US 202 email distribution list?**

*Mr. Kennedy stated that he will add the members to the email distribution list so that they can stay informed with the progress on the project.*

**Have there been children, or any pedestrians struck by an automobile at either of the two existing signalized intersections?**

*Answer – We are not aware of any in recent years.*

**Under the new configuration, how will buses be routed from the school towards Rindge on US 202?**

*Answer – The school district or bus companies would be responsible for establishing the routes, but we would expect that the bus would enter the roundabout at Stratton Road, head south over the new bridge, pass through the River Street roundabout and head south on US 202.*

**What is the best way for individuals to learn more about the project or have question answered?**

*Answer – Mr. Reynolds noted the best place to obtain information on the project is to visit the NHDOT's project website [https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/jaffrey\\_16307/index.htm](https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/jaffrey_16307/index.htm) . His contact information is provided on the site as well as information and materials on the earlier studies as well as new information such as newsletters, meeting notes, etc. The Town's website also provides a link to the NHDOT's project website.*