



Meeting Notes

Place: VFW Post 5613
12 Hawthorn Road

Date: November 15, 2018

Notes Taken by: E. Drew

Project #: 52457.00

Re: Jaffrey Route 202 Dogleg
#16307
Public Informational Meeting #3

The meeting began at approximately 6:00 pm with Marty Kennedy, VHB's project manager, welcoming attendees noting that the presentation would cover the efforts of the project to-date, including the evaluation of alternatives and the refinement of the Proposed Action. Attendees were provided an opportunity to comment on the Proposed Action at the end of the presentation.

Mr. Kennedy opened the presentation by reviewing the project schedule and noting that we are currently in the third phase of the project, which includes evaluating and refining the Proposed Action, completing the environmental documentation, and preparing for a formal Public Hearing. The Public Hearing has not been scheduled at this time but is expected to occur in early 2019.

Mr. Kennedy continued the presentation providing an overview of the study, including the development of the project purpose and need statement and the public input process that contributed to the development of the Proposed Action. Mr. Kennedy reviewed the alternatives, including the no build (do nothing), Transportation Systems Management (TSM) alternative, and the three build alternatives with four traffic control options for Peterborough Street at Main Street. The TSM alternative consisted of interim traffic signal enhancements, which the NHDOT has advanced and recently installed. These traffic signal enhancements include adding coordination and adjusting timings for two signals, modifying loop detection at the intersection of River Street and Main Street, and adding four-section, flashing yellow arrow signals for the left turns off Main Street at both intersections.

Mr. Kennedy reviewed the three river-crossing build alternatives, noting that the crossing closest to downtown is preferred as the costs, property impacts, and environmental impacts are substantially less than the other alternatives. The four options for traffic control at Peterborough Street and Main Street were identified as the following: four-approach (without Stratton Road access) and five-approach (keeping Stratton Road access) traffic signal control and four-approach and five-approach roundabout control. Mr. Kennedy noted that the operations, costs, and impacts associated with each of the intersection alternatives were similar, and therefore the selection of the preferred option was more about which alternative best fit the Town's long-term vision. This finding was presented to the Select Board in March of 2018. The Select Board advised the NHDOT that they would prefer the five-approach roundabout option.

With this direction from the Select Board, the team focused its attention on trying to minimize property impacts. The initially proposed alignment had River Street intersecting the newly aligned US 202 at an unsignalized T-type intersection with US 202 on a large radius curve. This layout would necessitate the full acquisition of as many as four residential properties. To reduce the impact to just one full acquisition, the team proposed a second roundabout at the new intersection of River Street and the new river crossing of US 202. The second roundabout provided additional benefits such as establishing a gateway to the Downtown from the south that would serve to slow vehicular traffic

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traveling along the new bridge, which in turn would enhance pedestrian safety and mobility. Mr. Kennedy noted that the proposed roundabout at the Main Street/Peterborough Street intersection would require the full acquisition of the Lab 'N' Lager.

At this point, Mr. Kennedy presented a video of a roundabout demonstration conducted in September of 2018 at the Con-Val Regional High School. The roundabout was chalked, taped, and coned to the scale of the proposed five-legged roundabout. The demonstration was conducted with volunteer drivers from local trucking businesses, the school bus company, and the Jaffrey Fire Department. The video demonstrates the proposed roundabout design would be able to accommodate the type of large vehicles that currently travel through Jaffrey's Downtown.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the next step is to complete the environmental report, which will be followed by the scheduling of the formal Public Hearing. The public will once again have an opportunity to speak at the Public Hearing and to submit written comments.

Mr. Kennedy proceeded to remind attendees that project information can be viewed at the NHDOT's project webpage www.nh.gov/dot/projects/jaffrey_16307/index.htm. It was stressed that in addition to the opportunity at tonight's meeting to ask questions and provide suggestions, members of the public are encouraged to share their thoughts any time with VHB project manager through email (mkennedy@vhb.com) or by phone (603) 391-3900.

The following are a representative sampling of some of the comments expressed vocally or written on comment cards by attendees of this public informational meeting:

Proposed Roadway, Intersection, and Bridge Design

- No alternative is perfect, but the proposed action appears to be the best solution.
- A representative of the War Memorial Committee noted that if the park is expanded to the south to mitigate the acquisition of a corner of the existing park, there may be a need to rehabilitate the retaining wall along the river. Any such costs will need to be covered under the project as the War Memorial Committee will not be contributing any funds.
- Given the poor sightline at River Street approach to Main Street, consideration should be given to 3-way stop control.
- The right-turn lane onto Stratton Road is needed.
- Need to consider the project's impact to access/egress at driveways to the Rite Aid.
- Need to continue and to enforce truck prohibition on Stratton Road, with an exception for deliveries.
- Need to keep sidewalk and trail adjacent to the Rite Aid separate. The trail serves snowmobile activity and will not be plowed. Pedestrians need a separate plowed sidewalk.

Safety

- Concern for pedestrians, particularly school children, crossing the street at the roundabout - should consider supplemental traffic control such as crossing guards or rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs).
- Concerned that the removal of the traffic signals with opticom signal preemption will impact emergency vehicle response.
- Appreciate the team's efforts to enhance pedestrian safety and access.

Property Impacts

- Residential property owner adjacent to River Street roundabout concerned with impact to his driveway and property – wants to discuss impacts with project team.
- Concerned that the property values of homes immediately adjacent to the roundabout will go down.
- Concerned with residential driveways entering directly onto roundabout, although one owner whose driveway would access roundabout disagreed and is in favor of the proposed plan.
- Concerned with the full acquisition of the Lab 'N' Lager as it is one of the more successful existing businesses in Jaffrey.
- Concern for housing displaced tenants of multi-family apartment building that would be acquired for the project.

Traffic Signal Enhancements (Transportation System Management)

- New traffic patterns with flashing yellow arrow have improved the delays and queues downtown.
- First time I haven't waited several cycles while driving through during peak times.
- No right turn on red is still not followed.

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:15 pm.