

Public Advisory Committee Meeting

NH Project Route 1
Lafayette Road, Portsmouth

Date/Time: July 11, 2019 /4:00 PM
Place: Portsmouth City Hall
Next Meeting: July 25, 2019
Attendees: Jennifer Reczek, PE – NHDOT
Stephanie Miccuci, PE - NHDOT
Rick Faul, PE - NHDOT
David McNamara, PE - Stantec
Tracey Tufts, PE - Stantec
Chloe Loukes- Stantec
Rep. Peter Somssich
Rep. Gerald Ward
David Walker- Rockingham Planning Commission
Cliff Lazenby- Assistant Mayor
Eric Kinsman- Portsmouth Police
Todd Germain- Fire Chief
Juliet Walker- Planning Director
Dave Desfosses- Department of Public Works
Steve Miller- Conservation Commission

Absentees: Eric Eby- Dept. of Public Works
Doug Roberts- Parking and Traffic
Committee
Michael Williams- COAST
Brenna Jennings- Area Resident
Sharon Nichols- Area Resident
Sen. Martha Fuller Clark
Robert Merner- Chief of Police
Rep. Jacqueline Cali-Pitts
Rep. Tamara Le

Distribution: Attendees

A Public Advisory Committee meeting was held at Portsmouth City Hall on July 11, 2019 for the Portsmouth Route 1 project to discuss the planned improvements to the NH Route 1 corridor and obtain feedback prior to the first Public Informational Meeting. J. Reczek presented a brief history and timeline of the project. D. McNamara presented an overview of the existing conditions and project corridor. They explained the project includes roadway improvements to an approximately 1.7 mile stretch of US Route 1 in Portsmouth from Constitution Avenue to Wilson Road and Ocean Road to White Cedar Boulevard. The project is based on the 2011 Corridor Study, but the intent is to solicit feedback from the public and corridor stakeholders prior to determining the extent and type of improvements. D. McNamara handed out surveys to collect feedback from the PAC.

Discussion:

The Planning Director, Juliet Walker asked a question about obtaining more traffic data relating to seasonal spikes in traffic and traffic spikes directly caused by Water Country. D. Walker, from regional planning, estimated the summer season to cause a 30% increase in traffic. He also stated that the traffic along the corridor has remained fairly static since 2000.

J. Walker noted an issue with storm drainage on either ends of the project. Presented the idea of green medians to aid with issue.

A member of the PAC expressed concerns relating to pedestrians in the area. Implementing multi-use paths was discussed and it was suggested that a multi-use path on one side of the road could be a solution in sections, if both sides are not feasible. It was noted that if that is the

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case then safe crossing points must be developed to access the businesses and residences on both sides of the road. It was suggested that if multi-use paths are used then there may no longer a need for a separate bike lane. A desire was expressed for the sidewalk to be extended to Peverly Road.

It was noted that Coast would support accessible stops and sidewalks improvements and prefers their stops to be located after intersections. There was also discussion that pedestrian crossings should be located near the COAST stops.

D. Desfosses noted an on-going project that will reconfigure Lang Road and needs to be considered during the design of this project. Lang Road will be reconstructed to tie into the Ocean Road intersection. The existing intersection of Lang Road and US Route 1 will become a right turn out only. It will likely allow both right and left turns in.

It was noted that there are many unsafe areas along the section of Route 1. The areas that were mentioned as being especially dangerous are Hoover Dr, Ocean Road, and Patriot's Park area. Sight distance along the corridor also causes an issue with safety with the number of businesses and traffic entering and existing, which could be a cause of the increase in rear-end collisions.

The inconsistent lane configurations were raised as a safety concern. The corridor alternates between one and two lanes in each direction, with short lane drops.

S. Miller emphasized the need for stormwater treatment as part of the project. He also noted UNH work relating to rising groundwater impacting roadway subbases and need to consider those potential impacts during the project design.

The addition of landscaping and aesthetic improvements were raised as a City priority, as well as providing shade to pedestrians and bicyclists.

Water Country traffic patterns are an on-going concern with the City and residents in the area.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

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Attachments: PAC1_071119.pdf (Slide Show Presentation), PAC Meeting 1_Questions_Results.pdf