

**Public Informational Meeting**

NH Project Route 1  
Lafayette Road, Portsmouth

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Date/Time: July 25, 2019 /7:00 PM  
Place: Portsmouth City Hall  
Next Meeting: Next Meeting Date  
Attendees: Jennifer Reczek, PE – NHDOT  
Rebecca Martin - NHDOT  
Rick Faul, PE - NHDOT  
David McNamara, PE - Stantec  
Tyler Gagnon- Stantec  
Chloe Loukes- Stantec  
See Attached Sign-in Sheet

Absentees:

Distribution: Attendees

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A Public Informational Meeting was held at Portsmouth City Hall on July 25, 2019 for the Portsmouth Route 1 project to discuss the planned improvements to the NH Route 1 corridor and obtain feedback from the public. J. Reczek presented a brief history and timeline of the project. D. McNamara presented an overview of the corridor. The project intends to improve 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. D. McNamara also discussed critical areas of the roadway.

**Comments:**

- Sen. Fuller Clark noted that Water Country causes issues during the summer and this should be considered during design.
- A resident of White Cedar Blvd, Sharon Nichols, mentioned that the road needs to have more consistent lighting to increase safety of pedestrians and bikers at night. Throughout the meeting this was mention by 2 other residents.
- Rep. Cali-Pits noted that the state should coordinate with the city in order to figure out if a traffic light is needed for West Rd. with the redevelopment of St. James Church. She also wanted the school and ball field to be considered.
- A resident of Banfield Rd, Kelly Shaw expressed concern about safety with people parking and crossing from Water Country to Burger King. She suggests moving Water Country traffic to West St. She also mentioned that the current sidewalks end in unsafe areas. She is in favor of more bike and pedestrian facilities.
- Rep. Sommsich questioned that the traffic data showing minimal traffic growth over the last 15 to 20 years. He would expect it to have changed dramatically due to the changes along the

corridor in that time with new businesses and development. He expressed concern that the design is not going to meet the needs of the corridor, with construction 6 years away and continued growth out another 20 years. J. Reczek replied that the Department will look at traffic volume projections out 20 or 30 years in order for the design to incorporate projected increases in traffic in the future. David McNamara added that the traffic will be projected using both a background traffic growth number reached in conjunction with the Regional Planning Commissions and the Department, and also any known larger scale developments that could spike the traffic numbers.

- A resident of Simonds Rd, Susan Sourman, expressed concern about the safety of the current bus stops.
- A resident of Lafayette Rd, Mark Allinson, expressed concern about safety. He believes that widening the roadway would encourage people to speed. He was also concerned that adding more lanes would mean that his property, as well as the other houses along the road, would be impacted greatly. He also stated that he would prefer the section of road that is residential to remain 3 lanes, but he would not mind the if some of his property is acquired in order to add a sidewalk. Another resident, Joe O'Neill expressed concern about the diminish in house value if any of the private properties are required for the improvements in the road. Another Resident, Ken Musky, added that putting a median in the residential areas would greatly impact the houses along the road. He states that it would cause issues entering and exiting the homes along Route 1.
- The Assistant Mayor for the City of Portsmouth, Cliff Lazenby, asked a question about how the project acquires more money in order to address more of the public's needs. J. Reczek responded by stating that the Department funds their projects through a 10-year plan process. They are just beginning the process for the next 10-year plan. There will be hearings throughout the State starting in the fall that will provide a mechanism for the City to express the importance of this project locally and potentially appeal for additional funding. In addition to the Department funding, the City may have allocated some money for bicycle and pedestrian improvements along the corridor which could augment the Department's funding. Funding currently will not support the cost to build the original corridor study 92-foot wide section, however, if that is not the desired outcome, the available funding may go further. Lazenby also questioned who would be responsible for maintenance of new sidewalks, J. Reczek responded by saying it would be the responsibility of the City. The sidewalks are a benefit to the municipality and the Department does not have the ability to maintain and clear sidewalks, so their policy is that the municipality is required to take over maintenance if they are constructed. Landscaping is similar. It can be added to the construction, but would need to be maintained by the City once installed.
- It was expressed by many that the smaller PAC meeting should have more members of the public, especially residents between Wilson Rd and Hoover Dr that live directly on Lafayette Rd will be heavily affected by the job.
- The owner of VIP, John Quirk, wants both directions of traffic to be able to get into his business without a median blocking access.
- It was expressed that access management needs to be considered, a potential idea is to collect multiple driveways onto Spur Road.
- A resident of Coolidge Dr asked if some of the simpler items (for example lighting along the

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road), could be done earlier. J.Reczek responded by explaining the Department's funding process requires that projects are planned through the 10-year plan process. With the current funding level, it can be difficult to fit additional projects into the plan because it means something else would need to move out. The other element that can make accelerating a project difficult is the coordination with numerous local, state and federal agencies a required to comply with the federal environmental review process.

- It was suggested that the design team walk and bike the corridor to gain a better understanding.
- Residents felt the notifications should go to a larger group of residents, to including the abutting neighborhoods, not just the abutting properties.

Attached Documents:

- PIM\_1\_Comments.pdf
- PIM\_2\_Comments.pdf
- Scanned Comment Cards.pdf
- Scanned Meeting Attendance Forms.pdf

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 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.](#)

**Sender's Name** credentials

Sender's Title

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