



OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS

Hooksett U.S. 3/NH 28 – Project 29611

June 1, 2023

Time: 2-4 PM – 6-8 PM

Location: Hooksett Town Hall in the Town Council Chambers
35 Main Street Hooksett, NH 03106

Attendees:

NHDOT

Tobey Reynolds, Project Manager
Jon Hebert, Senior Design Engineer
Sarah Healey, Design Engineer

WSP

Liviu Sfintescu, Project Manager
Timothy Higginson, Deputy Project Manager
Erin Williams, Engineer
Delia Makhetha, Public Involvement
Matthew Grote, Engineer

Public Comment by location

Note: The numbers shown below for each location correspond to the station marks shown on the presentation plots.

Alice Ave

23+00 Rt

- Concern about project impacts to stairs and stone wall.
- Crashes occur as vehicles travel down Alice Ave towards Rte. 28 when the roads are snow covered.

Route 3

95+00 Rt

- Periodic flooding along Carrington Farms Apartments shoulder into existing lane, NHDOT attempted to fix. Better than before.
- An improved traffic signal is needed for Alice Ave and W. Alice Ave – Left turns onto Route 3 out of the side roads are difficult.
 - Lots of near misses and people not yielding properly
 - Needs protected phase for lefts.



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106+00 Rt

- Left turn light at intersection on Alice could be better for turning movements.
- Issues with plowing in the wintertime with the private contractors.
- Concerned if light on the property will be removed.
- Allowing an access to property from Brace Avenue would be better.

108+50 Rt Area of Kool K9

- Concerned about property sign location.
- Some concerns about customer access with median island.

114+00 Rt Area of Circle Car Wash

- Center median - 80% of business comes from the north.
- Concern that adding a median may significantly impact Circle Car Wash's business.

116+00 Rt Area of Manchester Animal Hospital

- Retain maple trees along Manchester Animal Hospital frontage; Okay with retaining wall.
- Expanded parking behind Animal Hospital, District Drive permit review is ongoing.
 - Minor improvements to US 3 shoulder north of property line
 - Construction of retaining pond on property for treatment of additional parking area.
- 5-lane typical is reasonable.
- Questioning the need for sidewalks and pedestrian/bike access:
 - Area doesn't see much pedestrian traffic currently.
 - Bike lane not unreasonable, but concerns that it may be dangerous.
 - A runner was hit along the corridor a few years ago.
- Concerns with using turn lanes to turn around; concerns about ease of access with median island.
- Not in favor of the median island treatment.

123+00 Lt Area of Hooksett Family Eye Care

- 5-lane section impacts the existing ADA parking spaces.
- Not in favor of a roundabout.
- A bump in front of the drives from previous road resurfacing.



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- Drainage issues in the parking lot; Noted water from roadway runs into property, causing erosion at rear of parking lot. Culvert on the west side of property has clogged in the past.
- Plowing issues in the wintertime; snow curb obstructs sightline; hand shoveling.
- Snow driving is difficult on the corridor:
 - Sliding cars traveling up and down the hill.
 - Sudden stops in the winter are an issue.
 - Sliding into roundabout because of grade (in the northbound direction) is a concern.
- Against separating travel ways with median island.
 - Concerned by the length of left turn lane at Zachary Street northbound (there is a lot of AM northbound traffic) and location of curb cut (would like a median opening and a separate left turn lane for the business).
- Concerned about increasing speeds through the corridor.
- Concerned about the bottle necking at peak hours further north.
- Existing southbound left thru lane on Route 3 at Alice Ave leads to left turn south of the intersection, cars back up in right thru lane as a result.
- Sidewalks aren't needed. Usually only one person a week.

124+00 Rt Area of Carrington Farms

- Previous drainage issue along grassed embankment.
- Kids play on the embankment top, should consider a fence in final design.

128+00 Lt Zachary Ave median opening

- Consider adding left turn pocket on southbound side for U-turns. This would help Embassy Ave residents travel north easier.
- Ephemeral streams travel under Zachary Ave (430' off roadway).

136+00 Lt

- Significant runoff flows down Rte. 3 from Smoker's Haven to Embassy Ave during rain events.

140+00 Lt Embassy Ave (Manchester Manor)

- Sight distance issues looking left while exiting due to sharp curve and Shuttles Auto Sales + trees. Older population living at Manchester Manor.



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- Issues with trucks speeding up to “make the hill”.
 - Many near misses.
 - Curve should be fixed, but they understand limitations to revising the horizontal alignment of the roadway.
- Embassy Ave is a school bus drop off location.
 - Need to look at bus stops on corridor; how does median affect them?
- Not in favor of the roundabout.
 - Consider high traffic in/out of Embassy Ave which will be sent to Zachary Ave and the Mammoth Rd roundabout if no median opening is provided.
- Concerned about impacts generated by widening along the corridor.
- Suggested an officer with a radar gun observe the traffic speeds through the corridor:
 - Lots of high-speed travelers, especially truckers traveling both up and down hill.
- Manchester Manor sign and concern with potential impact. Explained that if impacted, the sign relocation will become part of the right of way negotiation process.
 - Removal of the bushes at the entry/Shuttles helps drive sight distance.
 - Agreed from a conflict point concern the median is an inconvenience but better for safety.

141+00 Lt Area of Shuttles Auto Sales

- Prefers shifted roundabout concept, in which Mammoth Rd is relocated south of Messer Brook and meets Rte. 3 at approx. station 142+50.
- Currently, Hooksett residences along the corridor have well water.
- Will there be a new waterline proposed with the project?
 - Directed to bring issue up with Hooksett Town Engineer.

147+00 Rt Area of Space Entertainment/Block Party Social

- New sign has been installed. If impacted, the relocation of the sign will become part of the right of way negotiation process.
- Public hearing process and schedule of 2027 construction explained.
- Concerned with more traffic on Zapora Drive.
 - Main entrance on Zapora Drive has blind spots and traffic drives fast.
 - Guardrail has been hit numerous times.
- Asked if sidewalk would be extended up Mammoth Road/Zapora.
 - Project team explained this is not currently planned but can be a discussion point with the Town.



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154+00 Lt Will there be a northbound left turn into Agway?

158+00 Lt Area of Pro Technologies

- Wet area year-round behind developed portion of parcel – more flow seen in the spring.
- Purchase of additional property would improve parking and drive access.
- Concerned about turning movements at Martins Ferry and backups at the intersection. Also, concern with U-turns to change direction.
- Backups from single lane merge and traffic lights, near Police Station, bleed into project area.

159+00 Lt Area of Anything Appliance/Ruff to Fluff

- Interest included impacts to the parking area and sign.
 - Project team explained the back curb/short retaining wall and how their footprint would remain the same,
 - The existing parking for 15 employees parking is tight and may expand it in the future.
- New sign has been installed.
 - Project team explained that the sign impact would be part of right of way negotiation.
 - Sign may be grandfathered with the Town for sizing requirements which may cause issues.

167+00 Rt Area of 124-128 Mammoth Road Realty LLC (Stone building)

- Existing drainage on the property from the back hillside cannot get to catch basin and ponds on property (southeast corner).
 - Town/DOT District in the past and was told they can't do anything.
 - Pumps to catch basin now, in spring flooded basement has occurred many times. Additional catch basins and adjacent to Day Care property would be helpful.
 - Drainage concern is noted and will be investigated during the final design phase of the project.
 - Recommended following up with Town/District and advised to write a formal e-mail to the Department expressing concerns given the project construction schedule of 2027.



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- It was noted that project will reconstruct the entire closed drainage system on Route 3.

- Can the project relocate utility pole at station 167+00 Rt? Since this is a historic house, does it need to be in front of house or can it be shifted to the north? Who pays for service connection relocations.
 - The project team explained the project would address utility impacts.
- Prefer no median, but agreed with safety approach.
- The property behind Supreme Pizza has Whitehall Road frontage. Possible relocation of Drive entrance.
- Discussed water and sewer being extended to the property with the Town. Water is currently supplied via a hose line from the daycare but cannot be used for irrigation.
 - Project team advised that this issue be discussed with the Town.
- Asked about Natural Gas extension to this project area, as it is present to the north (McDonalds has it).
 - Project team explained this hasn't been discussed but utility discussions will be held in final design.
- Concern with Supreme Pizza parking impacts.
 - Project team explained that the current design would not impact the parking on Supreme Pizza property.
- Trucks currently travelling northbound use shoulder/ditch area to park and then walk across to Sunoco for coffee, etc.
 - Project team explained that in the proposed condition the sidewalk/curbing would help reduce this. Advised discussing issue with the Town/District.
- Concern with the salt/snow from the widened roadway and sidewalk onto the property.
- Project website needs to be updated.

170+00 Rt Area of Supreme Plaza and Nail Salon

- Noted that all of parking spaces at the Nail Salon (and in plaza in general) are needed.
- Minimal area between US 3 shoulder median and building makes backing out of parking spaces and maneuvering tight.
- No issues with making the US 3 entrance right in/right out.

Martins Ferry Road

- Consider no right turns on red to avoid conflict with U-turns.



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Harvest Road

- Consider extending sidewalk further down Whitehall Road along the CVS property to the driveway.
- Questioned if sidewalk would be extended on Mammoth Road.
- Preference noted for signal installation over the roundabout noted, but ok with both.

Former State Representative

- Asked about night work considerations and business impacts.
 - Project team explained that traffic control and phasing will be evaluated in final design.
 - No pre-determined approach, night work could be used strategically in limited areas to avoid impact to traffic.
- Prefers no median; Roadway typical to the north doesn't have median.
- Prefers sidewalk on one side only. Currently not a walkable corridor.
- Future development on "Pork Chop Hill" near National Guard is unlikely due to topography, unlikely to need sidewalk.
 - Project team explained the safety considerations, crossing challenges of 4 lanes etc.
- Concerned with NHDOT maintenance and trash pickup, more so on I-93 in Hooksett.
- Who maintains the plantings on Bedford Route 101.
 - Project team noted it was the Town through an agreement with NHDOT.

Agway - The following comments were received by the Town on Jun 14 (after the meeting):

- Concerned the curbed median as it limits access to properties and businesses.
- If the median remains part of the project, they think that there should be an opening at Cinemagic Way due to the traffic from their business as well as the movie theater and the Urgent Care.
 - Noted that without the opening, access to the Urgent Care by ambulances might be limited.
- Suggested that a roundabout at the intersection with Martins Ferry Road might be appropriate.