

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BUREAU OF HIGHWAY DESIGN**

CONFERENCE REPORT

PROJECT: WOLFEBORO 29615
NH ROUTE 28 – PICKERING CORNER TO PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD

DATE OF CONFERENCE: August 11, 2022, 2:00 pm

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: Great Hall, Wolfeboro Town Hall
84 South Main St, Wolfeboro

SUBJECT: Project Advisory Committee Meeting #4

ATTENDANCE:

PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

Name	Representation	Present	Absent
Peter Gilligan	Brewster Academy	X	
Susan Harrington	Brewster Academy	X	
Mary DeVries	Chamber of Commerce, Wolfeboro EDC		X
Bob Leavy	Citizen-At-Large	X	
Cindy Melanson	Citizen-At-Large		X
Roger Murray	Citizen-At-Large	X	
Bob Tougher	Citizen-At-Large		X
Maryann Belanger	Governor Wentworth School District		X
Jeremy Roberge, CEO	Huggins Hospital		X
David Lynch	Kingswood Golf Course	X	
Sean Chamberlain	Lakes Region Planning Commission	X	
Alan Hanscom	NHDOT District 3		X
Linda Murray	Town of Wolfeboro, Board of Selectmen	X	
Dave Senecal	Town of Wolfeboro, Board of Selectmen		X
Kathy Barnard	Town of Wolfeboro, Planning Board Rep	X	
James Pineo	Town of Wolfeboro, Town Manager		X

PROJECT LEAD TEAM (PLT)

Name	Position	Present	Absent
Jason Ayotte	NHDOT Project Manager	X	
Corey Spetelunas	NHDOT Group Leader	X	
Michael Hlushuk	NHDOT Design Engineer	X	
Tavis Austin	Town of Wolfeboro, Director of Planning	X	
Dave Ford	Town of Wolfeboro, Director of Public Works	X	
Gerard Fortin	Stantec Consulting Services Inc.	X	
Dave McNamara	Stantec Consulting Services Inc.	X	

GUESTS

Name	Position
Samantha Fifield	NHDOT District 3 (Substitute for Alan) – Samantha.d.fifield@dot.nh.gov
Peter Cooke	Pickering House – pcooke@wellassociates.com
Bob Leavy	Seasonal Resident – nmleavy@msn.com
Nancy Mayville	Local Resident
Jonathan Bourque	Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

NOTES ON CONFERENCE:

This meeting was scheduled to update the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) on the Wolfeboro 29615 – NH Route 28/South Main Street Reconstruction Project (Project). The agenda included a brief recap and reminder of the project information and website, a review of work conducted by the Town since the last PAC meeting, review of the intersections of Pleasant Valley Road, McManus Road, and the Kingswood Golf Course crossing alternatives discussed at the PAC #3 meeting, and concluding with a discussion of alternatives for the Pickering Corner intersection. General discussion, concerns and questions are summarized below:

- I. Jason Ayotte began the meeting with brief introductions and a summary of today’s meeting. He indicated this meeting would primarily focus on the Pickering Corner intersection alternatives. The next PAC meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2022.
- II. PAC Meeting #3 Meeting Minutes – a very brief overview of the PAC Meeting #3, meeting notes. The meeting notes are located on the NHDOT project website.
- III. Dave Ford discussed the Town Updates portion of the meeting.
 - a. The Town has received a Tree Inventory and Management Plan from Bartlett Tree Experts and the report included an individual assessment of 661 trees, approximately 33% of which were identified to be dead or dying. As this project will impact trees along the corridor, the Tree Inventory will be utilized to identify which trees are located within the project limits and to minimize impacts to the healthy trees.
 - b. The Town is also pursuing (separately from the Wolfeboro 29615 project) a Complete Streets design for South Main Street from Pickering Corner to the bridge at the Smith River (Wolfeboro 100/112). This will include water, sewer, drainage, roadway, and pedestrian improvements. The drainage system is in poor condition and will need to be upgraded as stormwater collected within the Wolfeboro 29615 project limits is anticipated to flow into this system.
- IV. Dave McNamara reviewed the Alternative Considerations discussed at the PAC #3 meeting.
 - a. Pleasant Valley Road/Route 28 – The general consensus from the previous meeting was that limited work was necessary here. Creating a “T” intersection was favored.
 - b. McManus Intersection – There were positives and negatives to both the compact roundabout and unsignalized intersections.

- i. Dave noted that the range of alternatives discussed at PAC #3 will be presented to the public.
 - ii. Further discussion will be had with the School District prior to the public informational meeting.
 - c. Kingswood Golf Course Crossing – Dave noted that there were several alternatives reviewed at the PAC #3 meeting. The tunnel was favored, but only if privately funded. Realignment alternatives would require easements across private properties, which the Department would not be able to facilitate, so those would need to be obtained privately. There was further discussion about this crossing, including:
 - i. Tavis Austin offered to help with easement discussions with abutters at PAC #3.
 - ii. Dave Ford noted that this is not just a private issue, the Town does see accidents related to the crossing. These are generally rear end crashes, as the following vehicle is not anticipating the vehicle in front to stop at this crossing. He stated that a tunnel would bring the number of future accidents to zero.
 - iii. David Lynch noted that Kingswood is not in a position to privately fund a tunnel, and that measures to reduce the speed of traffic through the intersection should be pursued. He added that both adult walkers and high school students are using the crosswalk, not just golf carts.
 - iv. Clearing vegetation along this stretch to improve sight lines may reduce crash rates.
 - v. Dave Ford inquired about the use of a rapid flashing beacon for the intersection.
 - vi. The Department is researching if golf carts can use the sidewalks, which could help determine required widths for the crossing.
 - vii. It was questioned if overall speeds could be reduced through the corridor. The 2019 Speed Study was conducted reducing the speed zone within this segment, and provided additional recommendations for greater enforcement, radar feedback speed limits signs, and additional improvements for the 29615 to incorporate traffic calming elements.
- V. Dave M. then presented a discussion about Pickering Corner and alternatives that have been developed and reviewed. Dave’s presentation of Pickering Corner included a review of existing conditions, potential design constraints, and a history of previous discussions. He noted that the Town’s Study considered 5 alternatives, including:
 - a. Enhanced Striping
 - b. Signalized Intersection (3 and 4 leg)
 - c. Mini-Roundabout (3 and 4 leg)

The 2018 Town Recommendations to NHDOT stated the signalized intersection is not preferred, and the 4-leg options are no longer viable. The Enhanced Striping layout was preferred, and the roundabout acceptable, if impacts to private properties and business activities could be minimized. Dave then presented three alternatives for consideration:

- a. Enhanced Striping Alternative:
 - a. Creates a single through and single turn lane on each approach. It allows some additional storage over the existing condition.
 - b. It could be installed as a 3-way stop controlled intersection, or remain as is existing, with only Center Street having a stop.
 - c. This alternative largely matches existing back of sidewalk limits, so there is minimal impact to adjacent properties and business operations.
 - d. This option would eliminate six on-street parking spots.
- b. Mini-Roundabout
 - a. This roundabout was the one included in the Town report.
 - b. The layout has the most impact on the Brewster Academy parcel, including direct impacts to the monument and building.
 - c. There is no encroachment on the gas station properties.
- c. Compact Roundabout
 - a. This is a new alternative. Compact roundabouts have gained acceptance since the Town Study was completed.
 - b. Impacts are less than the Mini-Roundabout; on Brewster Academy's property the monument and building are not impacted.
- d. Dave M. then presented initial traffic numbers. He noted that the numbers included both an average month and the peak month. The intent is to design to the average month. The roundabouts performed better overall than the enhanced marking options. He noted that the design team intends to meet with the business owners, in particular the gas stations prior to the Public Informational Meeting, to gain a better understanding of customers and deliveries entering their properties to be able to evaluate drive openings and access.

Discussion that followed included:

- a. Nancy M. stated that she preferred a roundabout or stop control over the existing condition. She has had near miss accidents in that intersection, and the striping alternatives are not going to solve the problem, it will still function as a free-for-all. As a retired engineer, she noted.
- b. Dave F. noted the compact roundabout may be the best solution due to the minimization of impacts to the abutters, trees, parking, ROW, etc., but further study is needed to show the gas stations will still be able to operate.
- c. Peter C. noted that the 6 parking spaces that would be impacted by the striping alternative are important, as they are adjacent to the fields and are heavily used.
- d. Linda M. felt more comfortable with the compact roundabout.
- e. Brewster Academy representatives, Peter G. and Susan H., asked for more information and plans depicting more of the school property before they could commit to a preferred alternative. They did feel the compact roundabout was worthy of additional study, and

asked if the Richardson House driveway could be relocated internally NHDOT will provide a plan for review and Brewster for brainstorming.

Next Steps & Alternatives – The next PAC meeting will focus on the corridor wide typical section and drainage.

ACTION ITEMS

1. NHDOT will revise the post PAC #4 presentation materials and minutes from this meeting on the NHDOT project website.
2. NHDOT and Stantec will reach out to meet with the owners of the two gas stations at Pickering Corner prior to a Public Informational Meeting.
3. Town of Wolfeboro will research and confirm if McManus is a Town owned roadway or a private roadway.
4. The Town of Wolfeboro will reach out to the school district to discuss traffic patterns and their thoughts on the McManus intersection alternatives.
5. Town of Wolfeboro will initiate discussion between property owners adjacent to the existing Kingswood Golf Club crossing and determine if an easement or acquisition has potential.
6. The next PAC Meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2022 at 2:00pm.

Submitted by:

NHDOT

NOTED BY: J. Ayotte, M. Hlushuk, C. Spetelunas

cc: Attendees, File

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