

ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT NO. 2

December 7, 2001

DATE: November 29, 2001
TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: NJDOT Office, Conference Room 3C
Trenton, NJ

ATTENDEES:

Young S. Kim
Steve Lavelle
Bill Birch
Bill Cochran
Pam Garrett
Paul Nowicki
Mike Morgan
Martine Culbertson

REPRESENTING:

Federal Highway Administration
NJDOT, Division of Project Mgmt.
NJDOT, Division of Project Mgmt.
NJDOT, Community Relations
NJDOT, Environmental Services
Gannett Fleming
Gannett Fleming
M. A. Culbertson, LLC

1. PURPOSE OF MEETING

To discuss the project schedule, outstanding project items, and identify next steps for the Community Partnering Team efforts and action plan. (Agenda attached)

2. MEETING SUMMARY

Steve Lavelle opened the meeting welcoming Mr. Young Kim, the new FHWA area engineer for this project. He began by summarizing the current project objectives, which is that of concluding the environmental process and the final scope development process. He noted that the context sensitive design elements are now important factors to address.



Paul Nowicki explained that the Public Hearing was the last contact with the community and that the responses to comments are in the Environmental Document currently under review but not signed to date. Martine reviewed the CPT meeting schedule. Prior to the Public Hearing held on June 25, 2001, the last CPT Meeting No. 13 was held March 1, 2001. The CPT members were very supportive at the Public Hearing. They understood there would be a comment period and then time to circulate the Environmental Document to the agencies for comment and signature prior to meeting again to discuss the aesthetic design issues in the corridor and mitigation for Boyd Park.

Steve then reviewed the environmental and engineering procedures to be followed and the tasks to be done during the coming months. Pam Garrett noted that the comments from the agencies on the EA were positive. She explained that the movement of the Agnew House has been addressed and signature by the owner would not hold up the process. It is anticipated that the review process should be completed on schedule with signatures by year end.

The following issues are resolved:

- George Street interchange – 3 way movement
- Location of pedestrian overpass at Carpender Road
- Agnew House relocation
- Closure of Crest Road

The following issues remain for consideration:

- Bicycle movement and access at Albany Street
- Richmond Street cul-de-sac (partial support)
- Closure of Newell Avenue / Phelps Avenue

Other noted issues:

- NJDOT property has vehicles and people crossing over it to access Newell rather than using Route 18 including the US Postal Truck – residents are requesting some type of barrier (plastic fencing, snow fence) to prevent this movement on the open property
- There are a number of other projects in the study area: Matrix Corp at New Street, City of New Brunswick with new redevelopment of residential area “Hope VI”
- Possible new stakeholder – School on Commercial Avenue
- Riverside Towers on Commercial – may have been sold (check with Julius DeSantis)
- Rutgers consideration of moving the Boat House
- Marina across the river in Highland Park has been sold to the County – potential park
- Rehabilitation of Park north of project limits (Rutgers and Denier family) to be done with State funding – access, signage and parking
- Car accident at Paulus Boulevard area – consideration for interim improvements
- Status of Route 1 Interchange at the project limits – in planning

Regarding the engineering design efforts, the main components are addressed in the Final Scope Development report, customized on project specific issues. Gannett has given the report outline for review and comment by NJDOT and FHWA. The discussion continued on specific engineering points as follows:

- Horizontal and vertical design profiles
- Coordination needed with NJDOT Civil Engineering
- Utilities are desired to be moved under ground both for design, safety, cost and minimal visual interference
- Geotechnical site examination proceeding
- Structures to be coordinated with NJDOT engineering
- Access and ROW issues will be address as scheduled

The next steps for the Community Partnering Team (CPT):

- Brief local and regional officials – after elected officials are in office in January 2002.
- Tentative meeting with City of New Brunswick officials to discuss traffic accident and provide project update.
- Conduct courtesy telephone calls to all CPT members to inform them of the project status and tentative CPT meeting date at the end of January 2002.

To close, the project schedule was discussed. Provided the FSD package is approved and signed (anticipated end of December), FHWA to complete review in February 2002, the Initial Design effort completed May 2002, Final Design 2003, and Construction in 2004. The schedule will be revised to adjust for the items as discussed in today's meeting. Steve adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

3. ACTION ITEMS

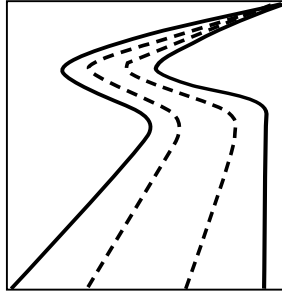
- Young Kim – to review CPT Handbook (contact Martine if any questions), obtain documentation from Gannett Fleming, and review project documents.
- Bill Birch/Bill Cochran – to contact NJDOT Maintenance to check on property condition and if a barrier can be implemented.
- Gannett Fleming - to provide report data to Young Kim, meet with City of New Brunswick officials if requested, coordinate with NJDOT civil engineering, revise schedule, and continue studies upon CAM#3 and CAM #4 approval.
- Martine Culbertson - to contact Newell Avenue resident as a follow-up on NJDOT property concerns, conduct courtesy calls to all CPT members and identify tentative CPT meeting dates for end of January 2002, write Steering Committee meeting report and distribute upon review and approval.

4. NEXT MEETING

Date: January/February, 2002 tentative (CPT Meeting No. 14)
Time: 9:00 a.m. – Noon
Location: Middlesex County Planning Conference Room, Elks Building
City of New Brunswick, NJ

Report prepared by:

Martine Culbertson, CPT Facilitator



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STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 2

AGENDA

November 29, 2001

NJDOT Conference Room 3C, Trenton, NJ, 9:30 a.m.

Objective: To discuss the project schedule, outstanding project items, and identify next steps for the Community Partnering Team efforts and action plan.

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| 9:30 a.m. | I. Welcome and Introductions | Lavelle/Kim |
| | • Agenda and Goals | Nowicki |
| | • CPT Review of Meetings | Culbertson |
| 10:00 a.m. | II. Project Issues | |
| | • Agency Coordination/Documents | Birch/Lavelle |
| | • Engineering Studies Items | Nowicki/Morgan |
| | • Environmental Items | Garrett/Pandya |
| | • CPT/Community Issues | Cochran/Culbertson |
| 10:30 a.m. | III. CPT/Community Issues | |
| | • Results of Public Hearing | Nowicki |
| | • Newell Avenue Request | Cochran/Culbertson |
| | • Newell/Phelps Access Road | Culbertson |
| | • CPT Assessment Calls, Next Meeting | Cochran/Culbertson |
| 11:00 a.m. | III. Summary and Close | |
| | • Project Management Items | Lavelle/Birch |
| | • Project Schedule/Next Steps | Nowicki/Culbertson |
| | • Closing Comments | Lavelle /Kim |



State of New Jersey Department of Transportation

Division of Project Management