

Walpole - Charlestown

NH 12 Improvement Project

Project Advisory Committee Meeting #3



March 12, 2008



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Review Workshop Results
- Draft Problem Statement Discussion
- Discuss Visions Statement
- Possible Low Cost Improvements
- Assignments

Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)

“A collaborative interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility.”

Consensus

“Consensus does not mean that everyone agrees, but that the principal groups and individuals can live with a proposal.”

Workshop Results



Workshop



**Public Welcome
Your Input is Important!**

Planning for the Future of Route 12/Charlestown and Walpole

**Date: Wednesday, October 10th, 2007
Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Silby Library/Municipal Building
Community Room - 26 Railroad Street
Charlestown, NH**

Meeting will include:

- What is CSS (Context Sensitive Solutions)
- Overview of Project
- What Happens Next

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What Makes a Great Place?

In evaluating over 1,000 public spaces around the world, Project for Public Spaces (PPS) has found that successful ones have four key qualities: they are accessible; people are engaged in activities there; the space is comfortable and has a good image;

and finally, it is a sociable place: one where people meet each other and take people when they come to visit. PPS developed The Place Diagram as a tool to help people in judging any place, good or bad:



Imagine that the center circle on the diagram is a specific place that you know: a street corner, a playground, a plaza outside a building. You can evaluate that place according to four criteria in the red ring. In the ring outside these main criteria

are a number of intuitive or qualitative aspects by which to judge a place; the next outer ring shows the quantitative aspects that can be measured by statistics or research.



Placemaking through Transportation



Place Audit

Jamaica Transportation Center

This exercise is intended to be used as a tool to evaluate how well Jamaica's streets and adjacent land uses are performing as Places, and identify opportunities for enhancing them in the future.

©2005 Project for Public Spaces, Inc. The 'Place Audit' cannot be used without formal, written permission from PPS. If permission is granted,

LOCATION: _____ ROUTE NUMBER: _____

EVALUATE THE PLACE

After you have walked the entire assigned route, select one site along the route to study. Put yourself in the shoes of someone who lives or works in the area, and evaluate how well this site performs as a place.

ACCESS, LINKAGES & INFORMATION

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pedestrians can easily walk to and through the place. | | | | |
| Pedestrian access is safe and convenient: | | | | |
| - Sidewalks connect to adjacent areas; | | | | |
| - Crosswalks are well marked; | | | | |
| - Crossing distances are minimal. | | | | |
| Taking transit is easy: | | | | |
| - Stops and stations are easy to find; | | | | |
| - Stops and stations are easy to get to on foot; | | | | |
| - Maps and schedules are readily available. | | | | |
| Bicycling is easy: | | | | |
| - Routes are safe and convenient; | | | | |
| - Routes are well marked; | | | | |
| - Storage is adequate. | | | | |
| Automobiles do not detract from the pedestrian experience. | | | | |
| There is adequate directional signage, maps and location information. | | | | |

SUM of ANSWERS =

AVERAGE ANSWER (Sum: _____ /12) =

COMFORT & IMAGE

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| From a distance, the place projects a positive image. | | | | |
| There are choices of places to sit, both in sun and shade. | | | | |
| The place is well managed: | | | | |
| - It is in a state of good repair; | | | | |
| - It is neat and clean; | | | | |
| - It feels safe; | | | | |
| - It is well lighted; | | | | |
| - Retail space is leased to the best uses. | | | | |
| Amenities are operable, well located and consistent in design: | | | | |
| - Telephones; | | | | |
| - Waste receptacles; | | | | |
| - Lighting fixtures; | | | | |
| - Seating. | | | | |
| High levels of goods and services are available, including: | | | | |
| - Restrooms; | | | | |
| - Newsstand; | | | | |
| - Food and beverages | | | | |

SUM of ANSWERS =

AVERAGE ANSWER (Sum: _____ /14) =

Workshop Results

- Evaluation
- Opportunities
- Problem Statements

Problem Statements

1. “While corridor has high scenic value, it cannot be enjoyed or traveled safely because of narrow roadway squeezed between railroad and river.”
2. “The road is narrow, bordered by the river and railroad, causing a dangerous passageway. The need is to ensure that this road remains safely usable at all times while complimenting the scenic beauty of the area.”
3. “The road is narrow with insufficient shoulders and drainage due to the pillars from the NH 12A overpass, the river, and the railroad’s close proximity. Travel along this corridor is unsafe for walking, bicycling, and other recreational activity.”
4. “Road may fall into the river and in addition to that, there are many safety issues to solve. Road is unsafe for pedestrians, trucks, and cars.”
5. “The road is not wide enough and there are no shoulders. Pavement is rough due to the concrete underbase and riverbank instability, which is a significant safety and environmental concern. Other safety issues include the proximity to the railroad, condition of the guardrail, potential for hydroplaning, and safety of pedestrians and cyclists.”

What does a Good Problem Statement Look Like?

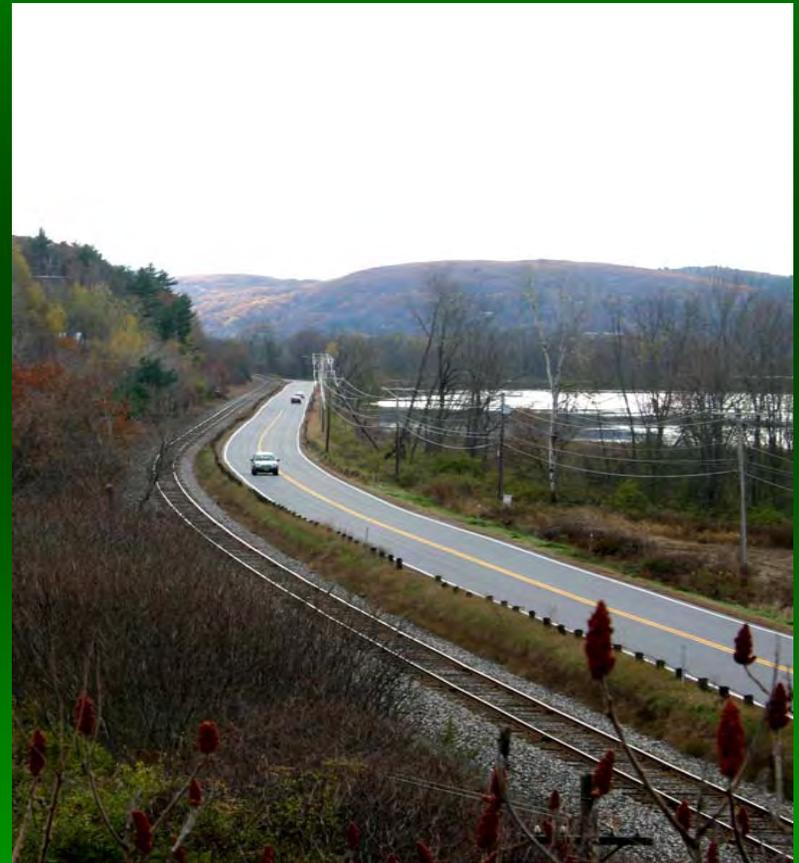
- It is stated in terms of underlying causes
- It is linked to travel markets
- It relates the transportation, community, and environmental components to one another
- It reflects customer focus
- It does not include or pre-figure solutions
- It is not mode specific

Problem Statement

The aging infrastructure of Route 12 presents safety concerns that are exacerbated by the roadway's proximity to the Connecticut River and the active New England Central rail line. The instability of the Connecticut River bank is a serious environmental concern that threatens the roadway itself and the ability to efficiently travel between Charlestown and Walpole. Route 12 is too narrow, lacks shoulders and guardrail, and presents the potential for hydroplaning due to poor pavement condition and lack of sufficient roadway drainage. These conditions hinder the ability of vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians to safely travel the roadway, which detracts from residents' ability to access the river and enjoy the scenic beauty of the Connecticut River Valley.

Vision Statement

A statement of desired characteristics of a place at a specific time. This statement should address transportation goals and may include other community and environmental goals related to the transportation corridor as well.



Vision Statement

- Include Transportation Needs
- Include Community Values or Aspirations
- Include Scenic, Aesthetic, Historic and Environmental Values and Goals



Sample Vision Statements

Meredith's village and rural settings will be enhanced by the US 3 /NH 25 corridor, which will allow easy access to village destinations while moving traffic through in a slow, steady, safe and efficient manner.

Peak congestion in Meredith and the Region will be mitigated by managing pedestrian flow, educating the public about alternate traffic routes and providing for various modes of transportation. People will feel comfortable walking or cycling on the corridor which will promote the town's social life, recreational offerings, historic features, and economic vitality. Long term viability of the corridor and stewardship of the natural environment and cultural assets will remain a steadfast priority.

Meredith US3/NH 25 Transportation Project

Sample Vision Statements

“Loudon Road will be an attractive, safe corridor that visually and physically connects at a human scale destinations east and west of the turnpike. It will be uniquely Concord place that functions well for all modes of transportation and integrates Concord history, aesthetics and environment.”

Concord, Loudon Road (NHDOT CSS Training Course Example)

Sample Vision Statements

The Pelham town center will be enhanced by changes to multiple intersections, which will make the town center safer and more welcoming to drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. These changes will enhance and preserve the small town character, historic setting and community aesthetics. Traffic movement for all approaches through the Pelham Town center will flow at a slow, steady, safe, and efficient manner for pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles.

Gateway treatments will provide an announcement to drivers that they are entering the Pelham Town center. The Town center will become a focal point that has connectivity and amenities, which contribute to a sense of “place”, history, and pride.

Pelham Town Center Project 14491

Vision Statement

What is your vision for NH 12?



Low Cost Improvements

Workshop Results
Walpole-Charlestown
October 10th, 2007

Possible Low-Cost Short-Term Improvements

What few things could be done now at low cost to improve this place?

Group 1:

Upgrade with scenically sensitive guardrail, add more pull offs, and add scenic byway signage.

Group 2:

Improve guardrail

Group 3:

Improve and add guardrail; improve drainage to prevent puddles in summer and ice spots in winter.

Group 4:

Improve signage to Fall Mountain Regional High School

Group 5:

Install new guardrail, shim pavement, and improve shoulders

Stakeholder Outreach

- Public Involvement Plan
 - Introduction
 - Project Background
 - Project Team
 - Project Process
 - Project Advisory Committee
 - Communication

The screenshot shows the NHDOT Public Interest website. The header includes 'NHDOT home | search | help' and 'NEW HAMPSHIRE'. The main navigation menu on the left lists: DOT Homepage, Traveler Information, Media Room, Business Center, Public Interest (selected), Rules and Regulations, Reports and Studies, Transportation Links, Project Information, Job Opportunities, Bureau/District Listing, Frequently Asked Questions, Site Map, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled 'NHDOT Public Interest' and 'Public Information - Walpole-Charlestown 14747'. It contains the following text: 'Public Hearing plans, meeting notes and other project-specific documents for Department of Transportation road and bridge projects are available for viewing or download here. **Depending on your Internet connection, larger files may take several minutes to download. Please Be Patient!** Unless noted otherwise, files are in Portable Document Format (PDF). Viewing PDF files requires Adobe Acrobat Reader. [Click here](#) for more information.' A note states: 'Note: The documents available below are for informational purposes only and should not be considered as final or complete unless otherwise noted.' The project details are: Project: **Walpole-Charlestown 14747 (NH Route 12)**; Scope of Work: Road improvements from NH12A in Charlestown south approximately 2.7 miles to Main Street in Walpole; Contact: Donald A. Lyrord, P.E., Telephone: (603) 271-2165; Available Files: Public Involvement Plan. The footer includes 'NH.Gov | privacy statement | accessibility policy | site map | contact us' and 'copyright 2006 New Hampshire DOT'.

- Project Website
 - www.nh.gov/dot/projects/walpole-charlestown14747/index.htm

Next PAC Meeting

Working Group Meeting # 3

Wednesday, April 9th, 2008

Silsby Library/Municipal Building

Community Room

Assignments

1. E-Mail Draft Vision Statements to Don or Nate.
2. Think about what potential low cost short-term improvements could be implemented.

Thank You

Questions ???

