

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

BARNSTEAD, X-A001(174), 14121E

NH ROUTE 28/ PEACHAM ROAD/ WHITE OAK ROAD

Commission

PUBLIC HEARING

August 28, 2012 -- Barnstead Fire Rescue Building -- 7:00 PM

The following decisions are the Department's resolution of issues as a result of the testimony presented at the August 28, 2012 Public Hearing and written testimony subsequently submitted for the Barnstead, X-A001(174), 14121E, project described as:

Reconstruction of the intersection of NH 28, Peacham Road and White Oak Road and widen a segment of NH 28 to improve safety. The proposed reconstruction of NH 28 will begin approximately 3,400 feet south of Peacham Road and White Oak Road and extend north approximately 4,300 feet. Turn lanes will be constructed on NH 28 at the Peacham Road/ White Oak Road intersection. The improvements to Peacham Road will extend approximately 750 feet east of NH 28. In addition, the approaches of White Oak Road, Yield Road, and Lake Shore Drive to NH 28 will be modified.

1. Barnstead Selectmen, suggested the proposed pavement match between Yield Road and Lake Shore Drive be extended approximately 150 feet so the transition doesn't occur in the middle of the hill. They also suggested the work on Oak Hill Road be extended westerly approximately 500 feet to be able to reduce the grade and re-align the roadway.

Response: The Department agrees with extending the proposed pavement match on Yield Road approximately 150 feet so the transition does not occur on the steeper part of the grade. The intent would be to only pave the existing roadway, any additional work such as drainage improvements would be the responsibility of the Town.

The Department agrees with extending work on Oak Hill Road approximately 500 feet to rebuild the road surface and improve roadside drainage. Additional curve warning signs would also be recommended. However, changes to the grade and alignment of this section of White Oak Road are outside of the scope of this project so would not be pursued by the Department.

2. Lyla Adkins, parcel 18, noted problems with drainage on either side of her driveway on White Oak Road.

Response: The Department will be making improvements to the White Oak Road drainage and anticipate addressing these concerns.

3. Sean Dunne, Martin Granville, Rodney Boyd and others, expressed concern with the existing NH 28 posted speed in this section and suggested the speed limit should be lowered to 40 MPH.

Response: The Department District 3 Maintenance Office, along with the Bureau of Traffic, will investigate the traveling speeds and conditions in this area and in consultation with local and State Police will determine if the posted speed should be changed.

4. William and Darlene Haynes, parcel 12, expressed concern with roadway drainage running onto their property causing erosion and also potential well contamination. They are concerned with the loss of 12 feet of property along their frontage and the impact it will have regarding traffic noise and safety for entering and exiting their property. There is also concern with impacts to their rental property as a result of the project.

Response: The project will address roadway drainage and appropriate changes will be implemented. The Department has a domestic well replacement program. More information regarding this program can be found at:

<http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/operations/highwaymaintenance/documents/wp.pdf>

The Bureau of Highway Maintenance, Well Section, has been notified of the concern and they will contact the owner about having the well tested for chloride contamination.

The proposed travel way will be essentially in the same location as it is today in front of these residences so noise and safety impacts are not anticipated. Property impacts will be considered during the right-of-way appraisal and acquisition process.

5. Sean Dunne and Heather Dunne, parcel 13, expressed concern with the loss of 2 trees and a landscaped wall in front of their property along the roadway as a result of the **proposed project**. They feel the trees provide a buffer from traffic noise and shade. They feel the wall helps provide a sense of security and also a growing space for grape vines. They feel their property has historic features that should be considered.

Response: The impacts of the project on property adjacent to the roadway will be considered during the right-of-way appraisal and acquisition process. The layout has been reevaluated and it is not possible to avoid the frontage impacts and still provide the minimum roadway shoulders and edge drainage. It is not anticipated that roadway noise levels will increase at this property as a result of the project. Studies have shown that dense vegetation is needed to reduce roadway noise, thus the removal of 2 trees will not impact noise levels. The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the historic significance of this property and noted in the determination of eligibility that, “. . . the property is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Its associations as an example of a small 19th century farm are diminished by the loss of agricultural outbuildings and significant alterations to the main house.”

6. A. Martin Granville, parcel 14, expressed concern with roadway drainage running onto their property causing erosion and also potential well contamination. He is concerned with the roadway moving closer to the house and the impact it will have on traffic noise and property value. There is also concern the project will impact the large spruce tree in front of the house. He asked if more land would be acquired with other future 10-year plan projects.

Response: The project will address roadway drainage and appropriate changes will be implemented. The Department has a domestic well replacement program. More information regarding this program can be found at:

<http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/operations/highwaymaintenance/documents/wp.pdf>

The Bureau of Highway Maintenance, Well Section, has been notified of the concern and they will contact the owner about having the well tested for chloride contamination.

The change in alignment in the vicinity of this property is not substantial enough to result in a noticeable change in roadway noise. The current proposed layout does avoid impacting the spruce tree of concern. Property impacts will be considered during the right-of-way appraisal and acquisition process.

This Barnstead, 14121E project was broken out of a larger overall NH 28, Barnstead-Alton, corridor project. Any future work associated with the overall Barnstead-Alton project would not require additional land acquisition from this property. Once these proposed improvements are completed for this current project, it is very unlikely that another project requiring property acquisition will occur for many years in this area.

7. Dick Ingram, parcel 33, suggested a traffic light be installed and speed limits enforced.

Response: Current and projected traffic volumes do not warrant the installation of traffic signals at this NH 28/Peacham Road/White Oak Road intersection.

8. Bruce Gray and Dave Corbett, suggested the NH 28/North Barnstead Road intersection be fixed.

Response: The North Barnstead Road intersection has been noted as an area of concern. Through coordination with the community and regional officials the Peacham Road/ White Oak Road intersection was determined to be the highest priority to address. The Department will continue to pursue intersection improvements along this section of NH 28 as funding permits.

9. Mary Calise, parcel 34, expressed concern about the steepness of the proposed grade of Ripple Road and about drainage along Peacham Road and Ripple Road.

Response: Due to the existing grades of Ripple Road and Peacham Road it is difficult to improve the NH 28/Peacham Road intersection without affecting the grade of Ripple Road. The Department has developed a reasonable solution with the proposed layout that balances needed intersection improvements with maintaining existing access and will continue to refine the profiles to lessen the grade if possible.

Drainage along Peacham Road will be addressed with the project. Drainage along Ripple Road will be addressed for the limits of the area impacted by the project.

10. Richard and Janel Burns, parcel 21, expressed concern with the loss of trees and property that they feel help reduce roadway noise. They requested that they be notified of all work around their property.

Response: Studies have shown that dense vegetation is needed to reduce roadway noise, thus the removal of the few impacted trees will not impact noise levels. The Department will strive to inform the owner when work on their property is anticipated.

3/19/2013

Date

Christopher D. Clement, Sr.

Commissioner

N.H. Department of Transportation