

April 4, 2016

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

**CONFERENCE REPORT**

**PROJECT:** BROOKLINE  
X-A004(343)  
40092  
NH 13 / NH 130 intersection safety improvements

**DATE OF CONFERENCE:** March 28, 2016

**LOCATION OF CONFERENCE:** Brookline Town Hall

<b>ATTENDED BY:</b> <u>NHDOT</u>	<u>Town of Brookline</u>
M. Dugas	Darrell Philpot – Chair of Selectboard
W. O’Donnell (D5)	John Carr – Selectboard
	Karl Dowling – Selectboard
	Brendan Denehy – Selectboard
	Tom Humphreys - Selectboard
	Tad Putney – Town Administrator
	Approximately 15 residents (see attached)

**SUBJECT:** Public Informational Meeting

**NOTES ON CONFERENCE:**

M. Dugas explained that the purpose of the proposed improvements is to enhance the safety of the intersection of NH 13 and NH 130 (Milford Street), and summarized some of the existing conditions within the project area.

- This segment of NH 13 was built in the late 1940s with 12’ lanes and 4’ shoulders; the shoulders have been widened over the years by successive pavement overlays to about 6’ to 8’ wide.
- Speed limit is 50 mph
- Two-way traffic volume on NH 13 is 7,400 vehicles per day; predominant turning movements at the intersection are the westbound right turn from NH 130 to NH 13 north, and the southbound left turn from NH 13 to NH 130.
- NH Department of Safety records show that 11 crashes occurred between 2004 and 2013, including one fatal crash in December 2013. Three of the crashes resulted in serious injuries. Also, about half of all the crashes recorded ‘distraction or inattention’ as possible contributing factors.

- A Road Safety Audit was conducted in 2014 by the NHDOT and Town of Brookline as a comprehensive investigation of intersection deficiencies. A range of possible short, medium, and long term improvement options was compiled.

M. Dugas explained that the proposed improvements will implement two of the recommendations from the Road Safety Audit. First, the work will widen NH 13 equally along both the east and west sides of the roadway to allow exclusive left turn lanes to be provided. The NH 13 road improvements will extend approximately 1,000' north and south of NH 130. Second, a curbed traffic island will be installed on Post Office Drive to limit the access to right turns only. No left turns to or from NH 13 will be allowed. All other traffic movements to or from Post Office Drive will be available via the driveway connection to NH 130. All project work is expected to remain within the existing highway right-of-way.

M. Dugas described the environmental review process that is underway. The project's impacts upon natural (wetlands, endangered species, water quality, etc.) and cultural resources (historic structures, archeology, public parks, etc.) are being evaluated. M. Dugas also explained the Consulting Party status that is available as part of the National Historic Preservation Act 'Section 106' process. (note: No attendees expressed a desire to become a Consulting Party.) Thus far no impacts to natural or cultural resources have been identified. An environmental document summarizing the findings will be completed prior to the completion of the project design.

The project schedule is to advertise the project for bids in June 2016 so that work can begin before the end of the 2016 construction season. Some work may remain to be completed in the spring of 2017. The estimated project construction cost is \$500,000, which will be paid for by Federal safety funds. No Town funds are required.

#### Questions and comments

1. There were questions and concerns regarding the proposed Dunkin' Donuts that is expected to be built this summer just south of Quimby Road on the west side of NH 13, and in the midst of the proposed northbound left turn lane. Some questioned the safety of allowing a commercial driveway within a left turn lane, recommending that the site be connected to Quimby Road. Others questioned whether the NHDOT's proposed left turn would adequately serve traffic turning left into the driveway. Police Chief Quigley recommended that 'do not park' signs be placed near the Dunkin' Donuts to prevent trucks from parking along NH 13.  
*Response: M. Dugas explained that the driveway permit for the development is under review by the NHDOT District 5 office in Bedford. While it would be preferable to divert left-turning driveway traffic to Quimby Road, the Dunkin' Donuts does not have the legal access necessary to connect their site to Quimby Road. The placement of the driveway within the left turn lane will allow site traffic about 330' to decelerate within the left turn lane. This distance is consistent with what has been provided at other commercial driveways throughout the region. Also, appropriate 'do not park' signs will be required as a condition of the driveway permit.*

2. Several attendees recommended that the speed limit be lowered within the project area. Chief Quigley recommended that the speed limit be lowered to 35 mph from North Mason Road (north of the project area) extending south to match into the existing 35 mph zone.

*Response: M. Dugas stated that the Town's request for a speed limit reduction has been forwarded to the NHDOT Traffic Engineer who has the authority to set speed limits throughout the State. A thorough evaluation will be conducted to determine whether changes to the speed limit are warranted. This evaluation will occur independently of the proposed road improvements.*

3. Ms. Annett Quimby of Quimby Road commented that the skew of the intersection results in some overlapping turn paths. This will not be corrected by the improvements.

*Response: Acknowledged.*

4. Question: Can traffic signals be installed?

*Response: M. Dugas stated that traffic volumes at the intersection are not high enough to justify installing signals.*

Submitted by:

Michael J. Dugas, P.E.  
Chief of Preliminary Design

MJD/mjd

cc: W. Oldenburg, J. Marshall, W. Lambert, R. Radwanski

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

**PROJECT** Brookline - NH 13 / NH 130 intersection safety improvements  
**LOCATION** Brookline Town Hall  
**PROJECT NO.** X-A004(343) 40092  
 Federal State

Name	Agency or Address	Comments
Lada Stiles Bill D'Donovan	MONTFORD ST. BROOKLINE DISEMPOWERED - MOUNT BERRY	
William Lively	4 Key Road Brookline	
DREW KILNER Jon Larioie	7 VanKee Way Brookline 124 Silver Lake Rd Hollis, NH 11 Potomac Hill Rd	
Aimee Somers Loring Webster	"	
Eric Bernstein Julie Chermas	8 Meeker Pl. NRPC	
Alan Rozwiler	BROOKLINE PLANNING BOARD	
John P. Motta Brian Kaper	JPM Real Estate, LLC 31 Mason Rd, Brookline	
Chief William Quigley Jerry Farwell Richard Gribble Annett Quimby	Brookline PD Road Agent 23 Oak Hill Road, Brookline 12 Quimby Rd, Brookline	