



# Meeting Notes

Place: Jaffrey Fire Department

Date: September 12, 2017

Notes Taken by: Evan Drew

Project #: 52457.00

Re: Jaffrey Route 202 Dogleg #16307

## Advisory Committee Attendees:

Jo Anne Carr, Planning/EDC

Stephanie Niemela, TEAM Jaffrey

Keith Dupuis, Industrial business/trucking

Carolyn Garretson, Conservation Commission

Ed Merrell, Planning Board

David Reilly, Schools

Jon Frederick, Town Manager

John Peard, Downtown Business(es)

Frank Sterling, Select Board

Randy Heglin, DPW

Bill Oswalt, Police

David Chamberlain, Fire

Marty Kennedy, VHB

Evan Drew, VHB

Victoria Chase, NHDOT

## Non-committee member attendees

Marc Tieger, Resident

Don Moe Isaac, Resident

Caroline Hollister, The Park Theater

J.B. Mack, SWRPC

John McCarthy, Resident

Peggy Ueda, Resident

Mr. Kennedy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the third Advisory Committee meeting for the Jaffrey Route 202 Dogleg Study. He then proceeded to discuss the draft project purpose statement, which was developed through input from Committee members at our last Advisory Committee meeting. The draft statement that was sent out to Committee members by email for their review and comment is:

*The purpose of the project is to address the traffic congestion and safety related deficiencies associated with the current configuration of the US 202 dogleg intersections of Main Street with Peterborough Street and Main Street with River Street while enhancing pedestrian mobility and supporting the quality of life and economic vitality of Jaffrey's downtown.*

Mr. Kennedy thanked the Committee members who emailed their thoughts and indicated that all who responded agreed that the statement captured the Committee's understanding of the project purpose. The Committee members in attendance also agreed that the statement, as written, was satisfactory. Mr. Kennedy reminded the Committee that our evaluation of alternatives will consider how well each alternative meets the project purpose.

Mr. Kennedy proceeded to present and discuss the mapping of natural and cultural resources and confirmed that all mapping would be made available to the public through the NHDOT's project website. Mr. Kennedy asked the Committee members to look at the maps, particularly the cultural resource map, and let us know if we missed anything. He stated that the maps will be used to determine if, and to what degree, the various alternatives impact these resources. The maps included:

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- Wetland Resources
- Floodplains
- Wildlife Habitats
- Groundwater Resources
- Hazardous Materials
- Cultural Resources
- Public, Conservation, and Recreational Lands

Mr. Kennedy proceeded to discuss the future year traffic volume projections. He noted that growth in the region is expected to be very modest. In fact, traffic growth in recent years has been flat and in some locations negative. Nevertheless, Mr. Kennedy stated that VHB has developed 2040 future year traffic volume networks assuming a 1.25% annual growth rate. Mr. Kennedy then presented a microsimulation video depicting the existing and future year traffic operations at the US 202 dogleg intersections.

Ms. Jo Anne Carr (Planning) noted that neighboring communities are showing some growth while Jaffrey is predicted to be flat, so we should be sure to consider regional growth.

Mr. Kennedy next proceeded to discuss the alternatives, noting that in addition to the Build alternatives (substantial physical modifications to the roadway system) other alternatives need to be evaluated including: the No Build (do nothing), Transportation Demand Management (actions aimed at reducing the volume of vehicles on the roadway), and Transportation System Management (low cost system modifications such as retiming traffic signals). For the Build Alternatives, Mr. Kennedy identified three roadway alignment alternatives; two that cross the river close to the Main Street and one much further south of the downtown.

Mr. John Peard (Downtown Businesses) said that all three of the build alternatives would adversely impact his businesses and he is opposed to all of them as they will "harm his livelihood." He is "not opposed to improvement", but would rather see a TSM approach and slight adjustments to lane uses and alignments. This was followed by discussion from other members of the Committee on the benefits of the alternatives. Mr. Kennedy reminded the Committee that we have not yet conducted the alternatives evaluation and that the Committee will have opportunity to discuss the benefits and impacts of the various alternatives at future meetings.

Mr. Kennedy noted that during the previous planning study, the input received from the community was that the community did not want to see the long alternative, which would run along the east side of the river crossing the river well south of the downtown, advanced through the process. Mr. Kennedy asked the Committee if that was still the case and should we eliminate that alternative from further consideration? Members of the Committee agreed that the long route should be eliminated as it would not be supported by the Town.

The Committee then proceeded to settle on a potential date for the first public informational meeting. The Committee settled on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. It was noted that the NHDOT will be holding a Ten-Year Transportation Plan GACIT Hearing in Peterborough the following night of October 18<sup>th</sup>.