



Community shares ideas at Route 202 Workshop

Gaining public consensus as we develop a safer, more accessible downtown!

Approximately 120 individuals, including business owners, residents, and community leaders, attended last month’s public workshop to discuss the Route 202 project. Attendees had an opportunity to speak one-on-one in an informal and relaxed setting with the consultant team, NHDOT officials, and members of the project’s Advisory Committee. Thank you to those who attended!

What is the project purpose?

For more than a decade, the Town has been exploring ways to improve the downtown, while maintaining its historic charm, mountain views, and business activity. These efforts have identified the cause of the problem – motorists traveling along Route 202 pass through two closely spaced traffic signal controlled intersections in a dogleg configuration where the available capacity cannot accommodate the high left-turn volume. This vehicular congestion both frustrates motorists and impedes safe and efficient pedestrian mobility.

The Route 202 Improvements Project aims to address the traffic congestion and safety-related deficiencies associated with the current configuration of the Route 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 the economic vitality of Jaffrey’s downtown.

What are the alternatives?

Attendees viewed, discussed, and shared their thoughts on a range of alternatives including upgrading the existing traffic signals, realigning Route 202 with the construction of a new bridge crossing of the Contoocook River, and various traffic control options for the Peterborough Street/Main Street intersection.

Options to upgrade the existing traffic signals include improved signal timing and coordination and the possible implementation of a “Yellow Flashing Arrow” turn signal that would allow motorists to turn left after yielding to on-coming traffic and pedestrians. There were three Route 202 realignment alternatives that connect Blake Street with River Street. One connects close to Main Street, a second crosses the river close to Main Street then runs along the west bank of the river connecting to River Street at Tyler Hill Road, and a third bridges the river well south of Main Street again connecting to River Street at Tyler Hill Road.

Separate from the Route 202 realignment alternatives, traffic control options for the Peterborough Street/Main Street intersection include either maintaining traffic signal control or constructing a roundabout. Options also consider converting the 5-leg intersection to a 4-leg intersection by closing the Stratton Road connection to the intersection.



What happened at the public meeting?

After a brief presentation highlighting the proposed purpose, project timeline, and potential solutions, the meeting broke into a workshop format, where attendees were able to view plans and other information while speaking one-on-one with the project team. Attendees were also encouraged to share their ideas with other participants in an effort to build consensus around a solution that works best for the community.

The meeting also included a voting exercise, where attendees responded to multiple choice questions using hand-held electronic polling devices. The questions revolved around the importance of different modes of mobility, as well as what components were most important to the audience and their feelings toward one of the alternatives: roundabouts. While many agreed on the importance of mobility for all users, interestingly, the response to one question revealed split feelings on roundabouts, **as depicted in the graphic below.**

Ultimately, the non-binding voting exercise aimed to stimulate discussion on potential solutions—encouraging attendees to think through what’s important to them, as well as to gain a better understand of what other attendees were thinking on critical topics.

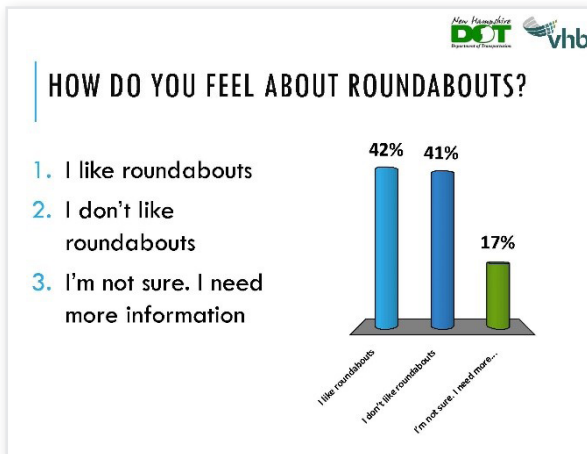
What are next steps?

Over the next month or two, the project team, working with the Advisory Committee, **will be completing the alternatives evaluation.** Based on the results of the evaluation and community input, the team hopes to settle on a “Proposed Action.” The Proposed Action and results of the evaluation will be presented at our next public information meeting—likely in the early summer. **Stay tuned for more information in the coming months!**

Learn More about our Findings!

Interested in learning more about attendees’ thoughts and comments from the public meeting?

Visit our project website at www.nh.gov/dot/projects/jaffrey_16307/index.htm to view workshop notes, including a sampling of comments expressed by attendees. The workshop presentation and the initial concept plans can also be viewed at the same site.



How can I stay informed and participate?

Driving forward these improvements to Route 202 is truly a team effort, and we’d love to hear your thoughts! You can stay involved by:

- Visiting the NHDOT’s Route 202 Project Website: (www.nh.gov/dot/projects/jaffrey_16307/index.htm) for more information
- Connecting with the following key project team members:
 - **NHDOT: Victoria Chase, PE**
(603) 271-2171 or victoria.chase@dot.nh.gov
 - **Consultant from VHB: Marty Kennedy, PE**
(603) 391-3900 or mkenedy@vhb.com

Connect with Us!

In addition to Town staff, feel free to reach out to the project’s **Advisory Committee** members to learn more:

- **Max Mitchell** | Chamber of Commerce | max.mitchell1967@gmail.com
- **Stephanie Niemela** | TEAM Jaffrey | teamjaffrey@myfairpoint.net
- **John Peard** | Downtown Business | johnpeard@comcast.net
- **Keith Dupuis** | Industrial Business | kdupuis@mountainshadellc.com
- **Carolyn Garretson** | Conservation Commission | cdgarretson@gmail.com
- **Don Stewart** | Citizen at Large | info@yankeemaple.com
- **Ed Merrell** | Planning Board | Main10@myfairpoint.net
- **David Reilly** | Schools | d.reilly@sau47.org
- **Frank Sterling** | Select Board | fwsterling@comcast.net