

October 20, 2020

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

CONFERENCE REPORT

PROJECT: LONDONDERRY
X-A004(724)
41715
NH 28 and Stonehenge Rd Intersection

DATE OF CONFERENCE: October 19, 2020

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: Londonderry Town Hall

ATTENDED BY:

NHDOT

Melodie Esterberg – Project Manager

Gerry Bedard - Highway Design Engineer

Dan Prehemo – Roadway Section Group Leader

Town of Londonderry

Town Council: Joe Green, Tom Dolan (also a State Representative), John Farrell, Jim Butler, Deb Paul

Town Manager: Kevin Smith

State Representative: Doug Thomas

SUBJECT: Town of Londonderry Town Council Meeting

NOTES ON CONFERENCE:

Melodie Esterberg introduced herself, and the design team, and stated that the DOT's purpose for being there was let the Council know what we have so far and are looking for information of what we may not know. This will ensure that the proposed improvement alternatives (to be presented at the next Town meeting) will better align with the Town's vision and expectations. Gerry Bedard presented a PowerPoint presentation including a brief history, existing conditions, perceived problems, data gathering done to date, and project schedule. The schedule has the Department returning to the Town late this winter or early spring for a Public information meeting followed by a Public Hearing in the Fall of 2021. Assuming a favorable finding of the preferred alternative presented at the Public Hearing, the project would advertise in the Spring of 2023 with construction beginning later that Fall. The presentation concluded with a request for input from the Town on what they perceive the problems to be as well as any other information we should know as we begin the development of design alternatives.

Councilor Farrell indicated that the downward approach grade of Stonehenge Road to the superelevated (down) portion of NH 28 was causing vehicles to slide through the intersection during wet winter conditions. He also reiterated the DOT's findings that lefts out of Stonehenge Road are challenging and requires a very experienced driver. Additionally, he asked that consideration be given to reducing the speed limit on NH 28.

Councilor Green asked if we knew the exact location (and types) of the reported 50 crashes. G. Bedard explained that that detail of information was not available when the crash study was initially done (in June of 2020.) A recent State law (part of HB1182 passed on 7-28-20) now makes more detail available, and the DOT will evaluate updated information to help guide the proposed improvements at this location.

Councilor Paul indicated that there are likely more crashes than get reported and that the property owner opposite Stonehenge has a surveillance camera set up to record all the crashes (that potentially could damage their property) for insurance purposes. Councilor Paul also thought that there had been a fatality at the intersection, although it may have been more than 10 years ago.

Councilor Paul expressed concerns with the high speeds on NH 28 and noted the fear she has of getting rear ended while waiting to turn left onto Stonehenge Rd. She also pointed out that Stonehenge Road is posted for "No Thru Trucks" but trucks still use it, and was hoping consideration could be given to advance signing along NH 28 of the truck restriction.

Councilor Paul advised that the Wallace Farm apartment complex on Perkins Road near Exit 5 is adding apartments and MacGregor Cut is finishing up their apartment construction. It is currently about $\frac{3}{4}$ complete.

Councilor Dolan and Town Manager Smith expressed concern with the rising cost of roadway construction projects. The Town has funds for its 50% share of the project but may not if the project's cost rises over the design period. This sentiment was echoed by Councilor Farrell.

Councilor Butler noted concerns that project delays will inflate project costs.

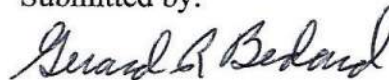
Fire Chief O'Brien expressed concern about getting emergency apparatus past the eastbound vehicles queued along Stonehenge at NH 28 during the peak hour traffic timeframes.

Doug Thomas (State Representative) noted that if there are any State laws, processes, or regulations that delay the project, that he is willing to assist to the best of his ability (within his authority) to facilitate the project development, and get it to advertisement for bids as soon as possible.

M. Esterberg reassured the group that the Department understands the concerns with delay and cost, and that the Department will do their best to keep the project moving forward and on schedule

M. Esterberg concluded noting that the NHDOT will be back in late winter or early spring to present potential alternative for improvement.

Submitted by:



Gerard R. Bedard, P.E.

GRB/grb

Noted by: D. Prehemo