

July 28, 2015

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

CONFERENCE REPORT

PROJECT: MILFORD-NASHUA
10136-D
Merrimack - NH Route 101A and Boston Post Road Improvements

DATE OF CONFERENCE: July 27, 2015

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: Merrimack Town Hall

ATTENDED BY: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
R. Grandmaison, Project Manager
M. Dugas, Chief of Preliminary Design
G. Bedard, Preliminary Design

PUBLIC
See attached list

SUBJECT: Public Informational Meeting

NOTES ON CONFERENCE:

R. Grandmaison introduced the project and discussed its schedule. He explained that the project is on the “Ten Year Plan” but not scheduled to advertise until 2024. The advertising date could change depending upon shifting priorities. The purpose of the meeting is to give the public an opportunity to review the concept plans prepared to date and provide input on the direction being taken.

M. Dugas explained the details of the concept plans.

The following was noted:

Abutting Properties

It was pointed out that the McDonalds restaurant at the southwest corner of the NH 101A/Continental Blvd intersection has closed with no apparent plans to reopen.

VIP Auto Parts is now O’Reilly Auto Parts/VIP Tires & Service.

Craftsman Lane realignment

It was pointed out that the proposed realignment of Craftsman Lane with Boston Post Road is similar to a recent realignment of Seaverns Bridge Road with Boston Post Road less than a quarter mile north (and is functioning well.)

Concern was expressed about Town of Amherst emergency vehicles having difficulty negotiating the proposed intersection of Boston Post Road and Craftsman Lane. (An Amherst Fire station is located on Stearns Road just off of Boston Post Road, approximately 2 miles northwest. The proposed intersection is designed to accommodate single unit trucks and could handle emergency vehicles just as well as the existing access road through the church parking lot.)

Although there was some concern with the circulation of traffic for the Merrimack Valley Baptist Church/South Merrimack Christian Academy, the issue of drives and circulation rests with the town and property owner.

Sidewalks/Crosswalks

Although crosswalks are proposed across NH 101A at the intersection with Continental Blvd, crosswalks at no other intersections are currently proposed. There were requests for crosswalks across NH 101A at the Home Depot Drive and at Boston Post Road. (Crosswalks and the associated pedestrian cycle at traffic signals introduces delay at traffic signals. Their use should be a balance between the demand, location of adjacent crossing opportunities, and traffic delays.)

There was some concern that the existing sidewalk on the north side of NH 101A at the right turn lane to Boston Post Road ends at a bad location and a suggestion that the sidewalk be extended, perhaps to the nearby intersection of Warren Lane.

There were several complaints about winter sidewalk maintenance. It was explained that winter sidewalk maintenance is the responsibility of the municipality, and that the NHDOT does not construct sidewalks unless there is an agreement with the municipality to maintain them.

Bicycle issues

One person stated that the biggest problem for bicyclist is the right turn lane from NH 101A westbound onto Boston Post Road. (The problem is assumed to be associated with WB through cyclist having to move from the shoulder across the right turn lane to continue west. It is suspected that the problem is exacerbated by the high speeds at which the turning traffic can travel around the large radius (150') curve.)

Coordination with 30" natural gas pipeline project

This highway project is independent of any gas pipeline project but coordination with all utilities is always part of highway projects.

Other non-project issues

Continental Boulevard and Tinker Road intersection – Clarification of lane use with pavement markings and or signs was suggested.

NH 101A & Northwest Boulevard – The NH 101A eastbound backups and lack of a right turn lane onto Northwest Boulevard are making some drivers “cut through” the shopping plaza on the southwest corner to access Market Basket. The “cut through” traffic is making it feel unsafe for the shopping plaza users.

Submitted by:

Gerard Bedard, P.E.
Preliminary Design

GRB/GRB

NOTED BY:

cc:

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

PROJECT Merrimack - NH 101 A and Boston Post Road Improvements
LOCATION Merrimack Town Hall
PROJECT NO. 10136-D

Name	Agency or Address
DAN ANDRETTI	310 E. Rte 101 Merrimack
Rosemary Ruckelsh	36 E. Rte 101 Merrimack
KINDA R. KOLAR	15 Prebody Lane Amherst
Beth + David Emulsmier	31 Pleasant Hill Rd Merrimack
CHRISTOPHER OSTERGA	MERRIMACK SCHOOL - BOSTON
MARTIN D. DAVIS	WINDMILL ALICE DAVIS (CHILD)
DICK BARRY	57 ATE REP (MERRIMACK)
John J. Segeby	2 Wheeler St Merrimack
MUNA T. ELLIOTT	15 W. Snow Ln Amherst
Daphne Kinnear	50 Colby Ave Andover
Carol D. Perre	10 Cambridge Dr Merrimack
Elizabeth J. Wright	311 80 Merrimack St Merrimack
LARRY H. KRIPPH	9 Amherst Ave Andover
Katie For	Merrimack Public Works 60 Bowdoin Lane, Room 200 Merrimack Village Dist. 3 Green Road Rd. Amherst
Dan Ben Kaplan	2 Craftsmen Ln Amherst
KAREN M. SANDERS	135 Rte 101-A, Amherst NH 03031
Gina Rossini	15 Dunbarton Dr Merrimack
Wife of Gene Abueli	21 Hecker Drive Amherst
James Gray/Mulvey	4 Francis Lane
James Cokery	509 Boston Post Rd Merrimack
Bert Fendler	15 Congress Hill Merrimack NH
Bob Hill/Robins	20 Sinking Bridge Rd Merrimack NH
Tara/Lady Kallanour	38 Green St Merrimack NH
Bryan Beckwith	35 Greenfield St Merrimack NH
Lorraine Redard	2 Wagon Ln Merrimack NH

