STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
BUREAU OF HIGHWAY DESIGN  

CONFERENCE REPORT  

PROJECT: PELHAM 14491  
(NH 111A, Improvements to Town Center Intersections)  

DATE OF CONFERENCE: March 20, 2008  

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: Pelham Police Community Conference Room  

ATTENDED BY: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OTHERS  
Chris Waszczuk (See Attached List)  
Craig Green  
Trent Zanes  

SUBJECT: Working Group Meeting #8  

NOTES ON CONFERENCE:  

Introduction  
Chris Waszczuk welcomed everyone to the eighth Working Group meeting. He stated the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the impact of the Town’s recent vote opposing construction of a new fire station and how it might impact the project. He noted that at the last working Group meeting the Dual Roundabout Alternative B, which saved the fire station building was found to be less desirable than Alternative A, which required relocation of the fire station. It was apparent that the project was contingent on the Town participating in addressing the fire station whether it was constructing a new building or retrofitting the existing building.  

Chris discussed how the project has progressed in the Project Development schedule. He pointed out that the project was in the Preliminary Design stage, and a formal Public Hearing was being targeted for May (2008). A successful Public Hearing would allow the project to move from the preliminary design stage to the final design stage. The Governor and Executive Council had appointed a Special Commission to preside over the Public Hearing and take testimony for the project. The Special Commission would make the determination for the necessity of the project based on the testimony received at the Public Hearing and would determine if the project would move forward.
If the Special Commission found for the necessity of the project, the project could move to the final design, which is estimated to take approximately two years to complete before the project could go to construction. Any delay in the Public Hearing would likely lead to a delay in the construction. Chris questioned the Group, that even though the consensus of the Working Group back on 11/15/07 was to support Alternative A, with the recent defeat of the fire station, should Alternative B be reconsidered since it does provide a better alternative than presently exists. There was some discussion, but the majority of the Group voiced preference for Alternative A, feeling it was the best alternative.

**Review of the Town Vote Results**
Jeff Gowen reported on the Town vote regarding the fire station. He noted the vote had been 2266 against the new fire station, and 1669 for. He noted that when there is an expenditure of this magnitude, the town vote would have to receive a super majority (75%) in order to pass. The Group felt that the Selectmen had done a good job getting the word out about the advantages of a new fire station, however the town voters clearly indicated (by their vote) they were not going to support an increase in taxes. Several members of the Group felt that because there was so much opposition to the fire station warrant this year and in light of the current economic conditions, there was no reason to expect that a warrant for a new fire station would pass at the Town Meeting next year.

**Discussion of Alternatives for the Fire Station**
There was considerable discussion of what could be done next to address the fire station. Jeff Gowen noted that even if the voters passed a warrant to retrofit the existing fire station, it was felt a retrofit would not be adequate for the fire station needs. Others agreed noting that a retrofit would likely only be putting off the eventual need to replace the fire station.

There was a suggestion that other sources of funding to replace the fire station be investigated. The Fire Chief noted he was investigating the possibilities of grant funding for a new fire station.

Selectman Hal Lynde suggested constructing a temporary fire station, which would include a concrete slab, temporary structure and a trailer and locate it near the site of a future fire station. This would allow the existing fire station to be removed and Alternative A to be constructed. There was some question whether there would need to be town approval for this option.

Officer Brian McCarthy suggested constructing an addition onto Sherburne Hall for the fire station equipment and using the empty classrooms for offices for the firemen. He also suggested that if the addition could be done, the existing fire station could be removed and parking created which would serve the recreation fields. He suggested a pathway with a chain link fence could be provided to separate the pedestrian traffic to the recreational fields from the emergency vehicles. This option seems to provide for better security for the police station and improve safety for people accessing Lyons Park. The Group felt this alternative had merit, and should be investigated further.

Chris questioned whether Alternative A should be taken to a Public Hearing in May, after the voters had strongly opposed a new fire station. He felt there would be a risk of the community coming out in opposition to the project, particularly since Alternative A
necessitates replacing the fire station and the warrant to replace the fire station was soundly defeated. It was agreed the Public Hearing should be delayed.

The Group agreed that there should be estimated costs developed for retrofitting the existing fire station, estimated costs developed for a temporary fire station, and an estimated cost developed for an addition to Sherburne Hall to permanently house a new fire station.

Selectman Lynde suggested that a questionnaire be sent out to the community with an explanation of the proposed options and costs to see if there would be a positive response.

**Actions**

The Town will have cost estimates developed for
- Retrofitting the existing fire station
- A temporary structure for a fire station
- An addition to Sherburne Hall

The Town will prepare a questionnaire, regarding the fire station retrofit/replacement, which will be sent out to the community.

The Public Hearing for the highway project will be delayed 6 months to a year.

Target a Public Informational Meeting for the fall to discuss the project alternatives and provide more information on the fire station issues and how it is linked to the project.

Chris noted that the Department would need correspondence in the future from the Selectmen on their thoughts/support for the project.

**Next Meeting**

The next Working Group meeting will be held June 19, 2008 at 6:00 pm in the Pelham Police Training Room. The discussion will focus on the ideas for the project and the fire station.

Submitted by:

Craig A. Green, PE
Administrator

Noted by: CMW

cc: W. Cass
    C. Waszczuk
    Tom Gaydos, Pelham Town Administrator

s:\pelham\14491\confrep\pelham032008.doc
# MEETING ATTENDANCE

**PROJECT**
Belham

**LOCATION**
Nth St A - Town Center Intersection

**PROJECT NO.**
Federal
State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Agency or Address</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diane M. Brunelle</td>
<td>Sec'y AS U Old Lawrence Rd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Hennessy</td>
<td>23 A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon D. Lemondragne</td>
<td>63 Old Bridge</td>
<td>Had Best Idea!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Michael Walker</td>
<td>Fire Dept.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marc Duquette</td>
<td>33 Marsh Rd.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Cestan</td>
<td>6 Village Green</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Timbehult</td>
<td>18 Simpson Rd.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byron McCaffy</td>
<td>Pemium P.O.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Bernard</td>
<td>Sen's Ctr Rep. - Alburn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Corin</td>
<td>114 Jeremy Hill Rd-Pelham</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleanor Burton</td>
<td>83 Sherdane Rd.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Haverty</td>
<td>BOS/38 Irene Dr.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sheet of ___________________________  Date ___________________________