



Meeting Notes

Attendees: See Below

Date/Time: November 13, 2003 6:30 PM

Project No.: 51272

Place: Kingston Town Hall

Re: NH 125 Plaistow-Kingston 10044-B
Advisory Task Force Meeting #12

Notes taken by: Marty Kennedy

Attendees

ATF Committee:

Glenn Greenwood, RPC
Chris Waszczuk, NHDOT
Ellen Faulconer, Kingston
Larry Gil, Plaistow
Tim Moore, Plaistow
Leslie Hume, Kingston
Don Briggs, Kingston
Mark Heitz, Kingston

Others:

Marty Kennedy, VHB
Mike Dugas, NHDOT

Committee Business

Glenn Greenwood opened the meeting and welcomed all of the Committee members to the twelfth ATF meeting. Glenn dispensed with a review of the meeting rules. For the benefit of Selectman Larry Gil of Plaistow (substituting for Marilyn Senter) Glenn reviewed the role and responsibilities of the ATF. Noting that the prior meeting's minutes had been distributed too late for the committee members to review, he recommended that their adoption be delayed until the next ATF meeting. The ATF members agreed.

Hunt Road/Newton Junction Road

Chris Waszczuk briefly summarized the status of the Hunt Road/Newton Junction Road intersection project.

- Noted that the project did not advertise on November 11th. Due to outstanding ROW issues and an outstanding wetland permit, the project's advertisement date was re-scheduled to target a January 27th advertisement date.
- Noted that the Department was still negotiating with four property owners on the remaining six parcels.

- Bayberry Variety parcels - Although a conditional verbal agreement was reached with Bayberry Variety, an issue with their lessor exists which is problematic and potentially could threaten the agreement. Also, the verbal agreement stipulates that they have until the end of the year to vacate the property.
 - Mastroianni parcels - A Right of Entry was received for work on parcel #49. The transaction for the land and building on parcel #48 is being finalized.
 - Trailer Place property - Negotiations are not going well. The owner is no longer interested in the retaining wall and associated liability. The Plans are being modified to remove the retaining wall and negotiations are on-going. The Department is preparing to proceed with condemnation proceedings if agreement cannot be reached.
 - Guptill property - The owners have been away and are not expected back until November 19th. The Department will try to finalize the right-of-way acquisitions upon their return.
- Relative to the archeological testing on the Nilsson property (former Gideon-Webster Homestead), the fieldwork has been completed. An end of fieldwork letter is forthcoming, which will clear the area for construction.
 - Lastly, asbestos testing on the two building slated for demolition is needed for inclusion in the contract. Testing is destructive and will be started once the title to the properties is received and contents removed. The asbestos report is envisioned to be available at the end of January.

Chris also alerted the Committee to the expected delay in the project's construction due to the time that the utility companies will need to relocate their utilities. The Utility Companies (Unitil, Adelphia, Verison) have quoted the Department that 37-40 weeks (approximately 9 months) will be required to totally relocate their facilities once relocation work is started. Chris explained that the current schedule calls for the project to be started in the spring of 2004. The first element of the project will be to demolish the two buildings, relocate the side roads and install a temporary traffic signal. Utility relocations would commence once the buildings are demolished. Work on the eastern portion of NH 125 will coincide with the utility relocations. However, work on the west side of NH 125 will not be started until next year when the utilities are fully relocated. The new project completion date will be August of 2005. This reflects a two-month delay from the previous schedule, which envisioned completion by June of 2005.

Public Informational Meetings

C. Waszczuk stated that he felt that the public informational meeting in Plaistow went well and that the reaction to the presented plan was generally positive. Most of the questions were generally parcel specific type of questions or project schedule related. The reaction at the Kingston meeting was mixed.

Chris noted that the public officials from Kingston who attended the meeting did express support for the project. However, owners of some of the properties that might need to be acquired, such as Whitney's Garage and Kingston Foreign Auto, were adamantly opposed to the project. The proposed modifications to Meeks Road including the closure of the north intersection with NH 125 were also raised as a concern.

Leslie Hume stated that it is important to recognize that only two individuals raised the concerns on the modifications at Meeks Road. She noted that there are many more residents of that neighborhood that may very well support the realignment. Chief Briggs added that there have been several serious accidents at the intersection and that the proposed modification would address this safety issue.

L. Hume suggested that the town officials meet with more of the neighborhood to discuss the safety concerns and to get a more representative opinion from the neighborhood.

C. Waszczuk noted that he received a call from Mr. Scott Pope of Pope Housing who expressed a concern relative to his trucks being able to enter and exit his driveway when the raised median is constructed. Chris will be following-up with Mr. Pope.

C. Waszczuk further noted that, with regard to the acquisitions, several of the comments at the Kingston Informational Meeting alluded to that the magnitude of the project being too grand. The individuals whose properties were affected felt that the Department did not need to widen as much as proposed. Chris asked the Committee for their opinion as to whether the project's magnitude was too large.

Chief Briggs said that he would be opposed to reducing the amount of widening that is currently proposed. Chief Briggs reminded the Committee that we are designing this road to accommodate future traffic growth and that he did not want to create a bottleneck.

E. Faulconer said that she agreed with Chief Briggs that we must plan for the future. L. Hume suggested that we should have one-on-one meetings with the affected property owners to discuss the project and ROW process in more detail. She felt that that process went well for the Hunt Road/Newton Junction Road project and that we should do it again.

There was some discussion on whether it would be better to meet at the Town Hall or meet individually with each property owner at their property. C. Waszczuk expressed a preference for meeting at Town Hall, while L. Hume and G. Greenwood felt it would be better to meet individually with each property owner. Chief Briggs volunteered to set up the meetings.

C. Waszczuk reminded the Committee that we need to make a decision on the issue of discontinuing Walton Road at NH 125. Chris stated that we can show it either way, but it is really a town issue. Chris asked Tim Moore if the town has a preference. Tim's response was that the town has yet to take a formal position. Chris asked Tim to get back to him by February as we are targeting an April/May Public Hearing.

Project Segmentation/Prioritization

C. Waszczuk distributed a color-coded corridor map with project priorities, estimated costs, and construction schedule. The proposed plan consisted of the following project priorities.

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Const. Year</u>
ADV.	Hunt Rd./Newton Junction Rd.	\$2,500,000	FY 2004
1st	Danville Rd./Jesse George/NH 121A	\$2,900,000	FY 2006
2nd	Old County Rd.	\$1,400,000	FY 2007
3rd	Roadstone Dr./Kingston Rd. Ext.	\$2,500,000	FY 2009
4th	East Rd. to Old Rd. -excluding Connector	\$2,700,000	FY 2010
5th	Segments from 121A to Old County, Old County to Roadstone, and Roadstone to HRNJR	\$10,000,000	
6th	Segment north of HRNJR	\$2,500,000	
	PE & ROW	\$9,300,000	
	Construction Total	\$33,800,000	

C. Waszczuk asked the Committee for their input.

A lengthy discussion followed. Committee members were very uncomfortable with the proposed plan because much of the funding that the towns say that they were promised has been removed from the 10-year plan. L. Hume stated that she raised the issue of funding at the recent GACIT

Hearing. She spoke with Commissioner Murray at the Hearing and has schedule a meeting with the Commissioner at the Commissioner's office on Monday, November 17.

Most of the Committee members expressed their frustration with the funding issue. They stated that back at the beginning of this project, the towns were encouraged to develop a plan for the entire corridor rather than segmenting individual intersection projects. Now they feel that they are being told to prioritize individual intersection projects because the funding that they were promised has been pulled out of the 10-year plan.

Glenn Greenwood commented that the long delay in the project's construction would undermine the Town's ability to have some control over development and access to NH 125.

Committee members stated that they would present their case for the full funding on Monday when they meet with the Commissioner. Committee members also stated that they would be contacting Executive Councilor Griffin on the funding issue as well.

Mark Heitz cautioned the other members of the Committee that if we present this as an all or nothing issue, we might end up with nothing.

The Committee did agree to modify the project priorities. They suggested that the first priority should be the Old County Road intersection. The second priority should be Roadstone Drive, with Danville Road being third. C. Waszczuk asked M. Kennedy to have the handout modified to reflect the revised priorities and to get it to Chris so that it would be available to the Committee on Monday when they meet with the Commissioner.

Motion to adjourn.