



## Meeting Notes

Attendees: See Below

Date/Time: February 26, 2004 6:30 PM

Project No.: 51272

Place: Plaistow Town Hall

Re: NH 125 Plaistow-Kingston 10044-B  
Advisory Task Force Meeting #13

Notes taken by: Marty Kennedy (Amended on 4/23/04)

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### Attendees

*ATF Committee:*

Glenn Greenwood, RPC  
Chris Waszczuk, NHDOT  
Ellen Faulconer, Kingston  
Merilyn Senter, Plaistow  
Leslie Hume, Kingston  
Don Briggs, Kingston  
Mark Heitz, Kingston

*Others:*

Marty Kennedy, VHB  
Mike Dugas, NHDOT  
Marc Laurin, NHDOT

### Committee Business

Glenn Greenwood opened the meeting and welcomed all of the Committee members to the thirteenth ATF meeting. Glenn dispensed with a review of the meeting rules and proceeded to ask for a motion to adopt the 10/9/03 and the 11/13/03 ATF meeting notes. The motion was moved, seconded, and accepted without modifications.

### Hunt Road/Newton Junction Road

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

C. Waszczuk noted that the project was advertised in late January with bids opened on February 19th. There were 8 bids received with the low bid coming in at approximately \$2 million or about what had been estimated. The Governor & Council will likely act to award the contract (should the contractor's paperwork be submitted by March 9<sup>th</sup>) at the G&C meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Shortly thereafter, a pre-construction meeting will be held for which the town will receive notice.

L. Hume asked if there was going to be a construction schedule available to the neighborhood residents?

C. Waszczuk responded that there would be a construction trailer at the site manned by a contract administrator. The administrator would be there to oversee construction and serve as the Department's liaison to help answer any questions and coordinate the proposed work with the

abutting property owners. Often times the administrator will drop by nearby homes and introduce himself and to let residents in the area know what will be happening and when.

G. Greenwood suggested that a letter be placed in the newspaper that would explain the process and alert residents to the existence and location of the trailer.

C. Waszczuk thought that was a good idea but suggested that it not be placed in the newspaper until after the pre-construction meeting because the contractor will need time to work out some details such as determining the location of the trailer.

M. Heitz suggested the use of variable message boards. C. Waszczuk confirmed that the design plan specs do call for the use of variable message boards for traffic management during construction.

C. Waszczuk went on to summarize some of the anticipated key dates as well as again explained the process that is involved in relocating utilities. Some of the key dates are:

- May 14, 2004 – building demolition
- July 30, 2004 – relocate side roads and install temporary traffic signals.
- July 28, 2005 – final construction complete.

D. Briggs asked if consideration had been given to placing crosswalks at the intersection?

C. Waszczuk responded that the Department generally doesn't place crosswalks at intersections unless there are sidewalks or some type of pedestrian route. There are none at this location.

L. Hume noted that the plans call for sidewalks in Plaistow. Why don't we have sidewalks in Kingston?

C. Waszczuk reminded the Committee that the subject of sidewalks in Kingston was discussed some time ago and the town didn't mention a need for sidewalks in this location. He mentioned that we are providing the right-of-way so that they could be installed later, if the needed arises. Chris reminded everyone that any sidewalks would need to be maintained by the town.

D. Briggs asked for a set of the design plans. C. Waszczuk gave him his set of plans.

### **Conceptual Improvement Plan & Access Management**

#### **Miscellaneous Issues**

M. Senter stated that the town of Plaistow (Planning Board and Selectman) has decided to leave Walton Road the way it is today with a connection to NH 125.

C. Waszczuk asked Merilyn, for documentation purposes, to have the town send him a letter stating that decision.

As for Meeks Road, L. Hume stated that the town supports the plan as proposed, which is to close the northerly Meeks Road intersection and improve the southerly intersection. She indicated that Highway Safety concluded that the Department's plan would address the existing deficiencies and that the plan should not be modified.

The Committee proceeded to have a lengthy discussion on potential development projects including a bank at the northeast corner of Joanne Drive (not submitted to Planning Board yet), the Early property opposite Colonial Road in Kingston (concerns with truck traffic and coordination between the NHDOT and the Planning Board), proposed office space at the Little River Motel (the town will be sending it to VHB for review), Galloway and Brox property (nothing new at this time), Granite Fields Golf Course (has not received Planning Board approval

- Board will likely require a traffic study) and Carbone property next to Windows Within (nothing has been submitted to the Planning Board yet) and Cumberland Farms (access issues).

### **Maintenance Responsibility**

C. Waszczuk informed the Committee that the towns would be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the landscaped median and for plowing the emergency vehicle median openings and widened shoulders in the winter. The Department would plow the directional median openings, but not the emergency vehicle openings.

The Committee expressed *strong opposition to*<sup>1</sup> the towns being asked to plow the emergency openings. Committee members questioned whether the RSAs allowed the town to spend money on a state roadway. They were also concerned with liability issues.

C. Waszczuk went on to explain that the new parallel connector roadway in Plaistow would be a town roadway. In addition, the roadway stub opposite Danville Road would also need to be under town control. The Department cannot acquire a property for the purpose of providing access to an adjacent private property. M. Senter will speak to the town manager on that issue. The Kingston Road extension to Roadstone Drive would be a Class II state roadway that, similar to the existing Kingston Road, would be maintained by the Towns in winter. Because the roadway will be in both Plaistow and Kingston, the towns would need to have a mutual maintenance agreement.

C. Waszczuk told the Committee that he would check into the jurisdictional concerns raised by Committee members relative to the plowing of the emergency vehicle median openings and would summarize the Department's position on the maintenance responsibilities in writing.

### **Meeting with Property Owners in Kingston**

In response to a request by the Town of Kingston, C. Waszczuk proposed to have a meeting with Kingston property owners at the Kingston Town Hall. The meeting would be informal with an afternoon and an evening session similar to what was done with the access management open house. The intent of the meeting is to allow interested parties to review the plans, express any concerns, and ask questions. Several representatives from the Department, including the Right-of-Way Bureau, and VHB would be in attendance to answer questions.

C. Waszczuk provided D. Briggs a list of property owners (67 properties) so that he could prepare and send out a notice of the meeting. C. Waszczuk agreed to draft the contents of letter, but the letter would be sent out by the town on town letterhead, since this meeting is envisioned to be held by the Town. Date for meeting was set for April 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Project Segmentation/Prioritization**

#### **Update on Draft 10-Year Plan & Funding**

C. Waszczuk explained that since we had last met, the GACIT Hearing took place on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. After a series of statewide public meetings, GACIT adopted their version of the 10-year plan, which differed from the plan that was presented to them. The adopted version had the NH 125 project fully funded within the years 2006 through 2012.

The plan was sent to the Governor where it was modified so that the Plan would be financially constrained. The Governor's version pushed \$12.5 million for the NH 125 project out to the year 2015. The plan was then sent to the House Committee where it was changed back to generally reflect

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<sup>1</sup> At the 3/25/04 ATF meeting, the Committee asked that the 2/26/04 ATF meeting notes be amended so that the phrase "concern with" be replaced with "strong opposition to".

the GACIT version. Recognizing that the 10-Year Plan exceeded the available funding, the House Committee recommended that no new projects be added to the 10-Year Plan until the funding catches up with and is consistent with a 10-year funding horizon. The Bill is being sent on to the full House. Therefore the current plan includes the full funding of the NH 125 project in the years 2006 through 2012. However, C. Waszczuk emphasized that the funding for this project is still subject to change and will not be final until the Bill is signed by the Governor and becomes law.

C. Waszczuk expressed how important it is that the Committee settles on a priority list of corridor projects so that it can be presented at the Public Hearing.

L. Hume expressed concern with the current priorities that front-end load the projects in Plaistow given her fear that the funding will run out before the Kingston segments get constructed.

E. Faulconer agreed noting that because NHDOT projects don't account for inflation, she doesn't see how the money won't run out.

M. Senter reminded the Committee that the Superfund site off of Old County Road will be starting in two years. She indicated that the activity at the site would generate 50 truck trips a day.

After some discussion on the funding issues, E. Faulconer suggested that we have an ATF meeting in March solely dedicated to discuss the phasing matter. The Committee agreed.

## **Schedule**

### **Environmental Assessment Document**

Marc Laurin provided a brief summary on the document process and the NEPA requirements to assess project impacts on a wide range of resources.

Currently the Department is reviewing a draft copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and will be meeting with VHB to provide Department comments. The draft will then be provided to Federal Highway for their review. The document will be made available to the public prior to the Public Hearing. The document needs to be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the Hearing. This would be followed by a comment period, which would be followed by a final document that responds to input received.

Following the submittal of the final EA, barring no significant issues, the Federal Highway Administration will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact, which will allow the project to proceed to final design and ROW acquisition.

### **Joint Public Hearing**

M. Laurin explained that the Public Hearing would be a joint meeting of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Wetlands Bureau. The Department will send out a notice of the Hearing to abutters. We will be able to obtain the necessary permits following the Public Hearing.

### **Questions & Comments**

Glenn Greenwood stated that he would like to step down as chairman of the ATF. He would remain as the RPC representative but would like someone else to take over the chairmanship. The Committee agreed to discuss it and select a new chairman at the next ATF meeting.

### **Scheduled Next ATF Meeting**

The next ATF meeting is scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Kingston Town Hall. The only items on the agenda will be the discussion on project phasing and priorities, and the selection of a new chairman.

**Motion to adjourn.**

cc: J. Brillhart, C. Waszczuk