



**Meeting  
Notes**

Attendees: See Below

Date/Time: June 10, 2004 6:30 PM

Project No.: 51272

Place: Kingston Town Hall

Re: NH 125 Plaistow-Kingston 10044-B  
Advisory Task Force Meeting #15

Notes taken by: Marty Kennedy

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**Attendees**

*ATF Committee:*

Glenn Greenwood, RPC  
Chris Waszczuk, NHDOT  
Ellen Faulconer, Kingston  
Tim Moore, Plaistow  
Merilyn Senter, Plaistow  
Leigh Komornick, Plaistow

*Others:*

Marty Kennedy, VHB

**Committee Business**

Glenn Greenwood opened the meeting and welcomed all of the Committee members to the fifteenth ATF meeting. Glenn dispensed with a review of the meeting rules and proceeded to ask for a motion to adopt the 3/25/04 ATF meeting notes. The motion was moved, seconded, with discussion.

Ellen Faulconer stated that the first paragraph of the notes should be expanded to include the two specific issues that the Committee raised when expressing their opposition to the Department's position that the NHDOT would not plow the emergency median openings. The Committee questioned the liability to the State if the emergency access openings were not plowed and also questioned the legality of the town expending funds on a state highway.

E. Faulconer also stated that she had spoken with Leslie Hume concerning the meeting notes and Leslie wanted the notes to reflect that the project funding discussion was based on a funding plan where the I-93 project would not be bonded.

Leigh Komornick noted that her name was left of the list of attendees of the meeting despite the fact that she was in attendance.

It was agreed that the 3/25/04 meeting notes would be amended to reflect the aforementioned. The Committee voted in favor of accepting the 3/25/04 notes with the noted modifications. M. Senter abstained.

M. Senter noted that the Plaistow Select Board feels strongly that the installation of a traffic signal at Old County Road was a higher priority than the Danville Road intersection. The reason for this is that the Board wants to keep trucks from the clean up of the superfund site off of NH 121A and Kelly Road. C. Waszczuk stated that he had received a letter from the Town of Plaistow on this issue and is prepared to discuss the issue under the project segmentation/prioritization agenda item.

### **Project Segmentation/Prioritization**

C. Waszczuk stated that the project segmentation/prioritization has been discussed for quite some time (since last October) with the Department trying to get input and consensus from the ATF. He stated that, although progress was made at the last meeting, the Town of Plaistow has raised objection to the most recent list. He expressed hope that after some discussion, the Committee could reach consensus on the project segmentation and prioritization tonight.

E. Faulconer stated that she would not be able make a decision tonight because other members of the Committee from Kingston were not able to make tonight's meeting. She said that she found out just today that there might be a vote on the project priorities. She stated that Glenn had contacted all the members prior to the last meeting when the Committee was going to be asked to make a decision. Chris said that he understood and provided Ellen extra copies of tonight's handouts for the other members so that they could review the information and be prepared to discuss this element at next month's meeting.

C. Waszczuk distributed the construction schedule/project breakouts map, which reflects the input that was received from the Committee at the March 25<sup>th</sup> ATF meeting. The map, which has an April 6, 2004 revision date, shows Danville Rd/Jesse George Rd./NH 121A as the number one priority.

Chris then distributed a letter he received from the town of Plaistow, which stated that the town was opposed to the April 6, 2004 project priority list. The letter stated that the Board of Selectman's top priority was the Old County Road intersection. The Board based its decision on the development of a recreational field complex on Old County Road as well as safety issues such as poor sight distance at the intersection. Chris then distributed a construction schedule/project breakouts map titled Town of Plaistow's Recommendation - Revised April 20, 2004. The map showed Old County Road as the top priority, Danville Road/Jesse George Road/NH 121A second, and Roadstone Drive intersection including Kingston Road Extension third.

E. Faulconer asked why under the Plaistow plan priorities 1, 4, and 5 (NH 121A to Roadstone Drive) were broken out into three projects while on the April 6<sup>th</sup> map as the 4<sup>th</sup> priority they were all one project.

Chris explained that it has to do with the availability of funds in a given year. The cost of the combined three projects is \$5.5 million, which is adequate as a forth priority in the year 2011, but there is only \$4 million programmed for the year 2006.

Chris then distributed a third construction schedule/project breakouts map, which is titled the Department's recommendation -revised April 20, 2004. Chris stated that the Department has reviewed all the input received to-date and identified the priorities on the Department's plan based on safety concerns and areas of the corridor that are most congested. The map showed the top three priorities as 1) Danville Road/Jesse George Road/ NH 121A, 2) Old County Road, 3) Roadstone Drive/Kingston Road Extension.

There was some discussion on how each town would consider the various plans and come to the next meeting prepared to make a decision. G. Greenwood stated that he would send a letter and copies of the three maps to the Select Boards of each town.

Tim Moore suggested that perhaps a temporary traffic signal without any turn lanes could be installed at the Old County Road intersection. This would address the need of the recreational fields that should be complete by 2006. C. Waszczuk noted his concern of installing a signal without the turn lane.

### **Maintenance Issues**

C. Waszczuk passed out a copy of a letter that was sent to each town's Board of Selectmen from the Department. The letter describes: some of the benefits of the access management elements that were provided in the plan, notes that the towns of Plaistow and Kingston along with the Department concluded that the project should contain a comprehensive access management plan, and notes that of the project's total \$22.5 million estimated cost, \$4.3 million is for access management elements. The letter also outlined the following construction and maintenance responsibilities.

- The Department as part of the project proposes to construct sidewalks, but the Town would be responsible for their future maintenance.
- The Department proposes to install low maintenance plantings with the raised median, but the Town would be responsible for future maintenance.
- The Department proposes to construct the service road between the Village Curtain Shops and Super Subs/John Deere/Furniture Store and the connector road extending from the rear of the Auto Exchange behind a number of commercial properties and intersecting NH 125 north of Old Road. These connector roadways are envisioned to be town roads and, as such, turned over to the town as soon as they are constructed.
- The Department proposes to construct the stub connector roadway opposite the new Danville Road intersection. Again this connector road is envisioned to be a town road segment and once constructed turned over to the town.
- Kingston Road is currently a Class 2 roadway, maintained by the state for summer maintenance only with winter maintenance performed by the town. The Department envisions a similar maintenance arrangement for the Kingston Road Extension with the towns working out a mutual agreement for winter maintenance.
- The Department proposes to maintain and plow the emergency median openings, but as a secondary element of their plowing operation.
- The Department proposes to maintain and plow the directional median openings, but as a secondary element.

### **Access Management Report**

M. Kennedy distributed copies of an initial draft of the Access Management Manual and briefly summarized the various sections of the report. The report includes an introduction section, a section describing the various access management elements, a section on land use regulations, and finally the memorandum of understanding. The Committee members were asked to review the draft and provide comments by the next ATF meeting. M. Kennedy asked the Committee members to take a close look at the land use regulations section for consistency with each town's current policies and to also review closely the memorandum of understanding as that section describes the responsibilities of the towns as well as the NHDOT.

M. Kennedy pointed out some of the specific regulations in the manual such as:

- Maximum number of driveways - Parcels with frontage only on NH 125 shall be allowed one driveway.
- Interconnecting Driveways - All projects subject to site plan review shall provide interconnecting driveways or easements for future connection between adjacent parcels.
- Access to Parcels with Multiple Frontages - Parcels with frontage on both NH 125 and an adjacent or intersecting roadway shall not be permitted to access NH 125, except where it can be demonstrated that other potential access points would cause greater environmental or traffic impact.

E. Faulconer expressed concern that the Department continues to issue driveway permits for development projects where the Planning Board is trying to be more restrictive such as limiting access to one drive or limiting access to a side street. E. Faulconer asked what legal basis there is for the town being more restrictive than the State. M. Kennedy responded that he will provide the Committee some literature on the legal issues related to the implementation of an access management plan, but also suggested that each town have their own legal counsel review the draft document and the memorandum of understanding.

There was considerable discussion on how to bring the policies of the towns and the Department more in sync. L. Komornick noted that the Plaistow Planning Board waived the access management standards for the Cumberland Farms project and allowed three driveways on Danville Road because the applicant argued that three drives would be safer.

C. Waszczuk stated that the Department is currently reviewing the driveway permit policy in an effort to incorporate access management elements into the policy.

E. Faulconer thought that some of the language in the memorandum of understanding under the NHDOT responsibilities was too vague. She suggested that language such as "the Department will notify the town" or "the Department will coordinate with the town" was not strong enough.

It was suggested that the NHDOT's driveway permit application checklist include a checkbox to confirm application for local approval? Doing this would not require the Department to withhold a permit until site plan approval, but it would better coordinate the state and local review processes. This would avoid the current problem where applicants go through the NHDOT driveway permit process first and then go to the Planning Board with driveway permit in hand.

### **Schedule**

C. Waszczuk provided the Committee a brief status report on the EA documentation. The Department and the FHWA are currently reviewing a draft copy of the document. The EA document will need to be made available to the public at least 30 days prior to the public hearing.

A petition for the Hearing was approved at the May 5<sup>th</sup> Governor and Executive Council meeting (G&C). However, the Special Committee to oversee the hearing and approve the project's layout was not appointed at that time. It is expected that this will happen at the next G&C meeting.

Chris asked the Committee for their thoughts on a location for the Hearing. The Kingston Town Hall would be ideal if work at the Town Hall has been taken care of. E. Faulconer will check to see if the Town Hall will be ready in time. Sawyer's Function Hall was also suggested as a possible location as well as the gymnasium at the High School in Kingston or the Middle School in Plaistow.

At this point the Public Hearing will likely occur late in August or possible early in September.

### **Scheduled Next ATF Meeting**

The next ATF meeting is scheduled for July 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Kingston Town Hall.

### **Motion to adjourn.**

Cc: J. Brillhart  
C. Waszczuk

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