

December 29, 2020

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

CONFERENCE REPORT

PROJECT: PLAISTOW 40641
X-A004(452)
NH ROUTE 121A – Traffic Calming and Safety Improvement Project

DATE OF CONFERENCE: Friday December 18, 2020

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: Virtual Via Zoom

ATTENDED BY:

<u>Town</u>	<u>DOT</u>	<u>HTA</u>
Dee Voss	Matt Lampron	Stephen Haas
Timothy Moore	Maggie Baldwin	
Julian Kiszka	Cassandra Burns	
Dan Poliquin		

SUBJECT: First Working Group Meeting

NOTES ON CONFERENCE:

Cassandra Burns began the meeting by introducing the members of the Working Group (WG) and by giving a brief history of the project. She noted that she will review the Public Involvement Outline (PIO) and make updates after the meeting. She also noted that the Department met with the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) where they said they use a software to survey residents and gain their input and engage them in the design process. The Department also has software, so either will be used to survey the Town residents on different traffic calming measures they would be interested in and locations. She asked the WG members if they have thought of any questions that or thoughts on traffic calming measures. The following is the discussion from the meeting:

- Dan Poliquin asked if the current sitting Board of Selectmen and Planning Board members have any ideas for the corridor that have been discussed so far. Maggie Baldwin noted that we hope to start going over these ideas at this meeting.
- Stephen Haas asked the Town members of the working group what their priority of improvements would be, for example, would they rather spend the money to redirect traffic with traffic calming measures or construct sidewalks throughout the corridor and make it more pedestrian friendly.

- Julian Kiszka mentioned that sidewalks would be nice but speeding and safety improvement would be his main goal. He added that he is concerned with the amount of money allocated for the project, the timeframe (noting this project is not advertising until 2024 with construction beginning in 2025) and that the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project was not successful at slowing traffic down. He would like the Town to have more say in what is constructed (he gave an example of the RRFBs that were constructed in the SRTS project not having the right lightbulbs and had to be changed out and paid for by the Town). Julian noted that he liked that idea of the raised crosswalk. Maggie added that the money allocated in the budget is for current dollars and inflation will be added for 2025.
- Dee Voss said that she would like to see sidewalks throughout the corridor. She also said that there will be push back from the residents for roundabouts and that Highway Maintenance may see an issue with them. Julian added that sidewalks will enhance pedestrian safety. Dee added that there are a lot of walkers on NH 121A/Main St and a lot of residents walk to and from the Library and Pollard School. She noted that included sidewalks is a main goal for her.
- Julian added that drainage upgrades should also be considered; there is no closed drainage system on the east end of the corridor and the corridor contains a lot of deteriorated swales.
- Maggie noted that a compacted roundabout could possibly fit within the existing right-of-way in front of the library. As for maintenance, the State will not want to plow a roundabout and the Department will need to vet through the concepts before any final decisions are made for the proposed layout and that a maintenance agreement will be needed for pavement markings. She noted that the Department wants the Town on board with what is proposed for the corridor.
- Julian added that he is not against a roundabout and knows there are benefits to them. He also noted that trucks would not want to drive on the corridor as much if they are along the corridor.
- Dan added that it might help having more radar enforcement at the intersections and he asked if the State does any speed radar signs. Stephen noted that a speed study was done in 2018 that did indicate the 85th percentile speed is 41 mph. Dan added that crash data would help them determine which intersections should be considered for improvements.
- Maggie asked Julian if he had any specific intersection that he thought would benefit from a raised crosswalk; Julian noted that in front of the school, Town hall and at the intersection of Westville and Dee added the library intersection.
- Dan asked if a pedestrian crossing signal could be installed at these intersections. Stephen said that those usually need to meet a warrant.
- Dee asked if the State would maintain a raised intersection and if there were issues maintaining those. Maggie said that the State has wider equipment, so they can only

maintain certain widths of roadway; there would need to be concurrence with the Town (and an agreement) for the Town to maintain those types of intersections.

- Dan mentioned that if there is less traffic there could be more speeders. Maggie said that geometric changes would help slow down traffic. She mentioned the roundabout in Goffstown (located at the [intersection of NH 13 / NH 114](#)) that is a good example of a layout that could be used for this corridor.
- Julian mentioned that parking should be included in the proposed layout; this may help slower traffic while narrowing the travel lanes. He also mentioned that the crown of the roadway is an issue and needs to be fixed. He also added that if additional sidewalks are not included in the proposed layout, then the existing sidewalks need to be fixed; there are poles in the middle the existing sidewalks. He also mentioned that bikes could use the sidewalk instead of the roadway, that there is no ordinance in the Town requiring bicyclists to use the roadway. Maggie added that she believes there is an RSA that states that bicyclists are required to use the roadway but will look into it. **Maggie reached out to the Traffic Bureau who gave their input for bikes on sidewalks; it comes down to if the Town wants to enforce bikes using the sidewalk or not.**

ACTION ITEMS:

- **The Department will talk to the RPC to see how long it will take for them to develop the Resident Survey**
- **Cassandra will email the Working Group members for additional action items, including when to send example survey questions to her by and information regarding the next Working Group Meeting.**

Submitted by:

Cassandra Burns
Senior Design Engineer

clb/CLB

NOTED BY: M. Baldwin, S. Haas

cc: Attendees