

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

SEABROOK, NH
X-A002(762), 16444

US Route 1 Safety and Capacity Improvements, from Autumn Way to NH 107.

November 12, 2013

Seabrook Middle School
Commission
PUBLIC HEARING

7:00 P.M.

SEABROOK, X-A002(762), 16444, The project will widen US 1 to the west to provide an additional southbound thru lane, and will include utility relocations as needed. The existing sidewalk, along the west side of US 1, is also proposed to be reconstructed. In addition, Autumn Way will be realigned to intersect Pine Street thus providing access to the existing signal, and Autumn Way's existing intersection with US 1 will be eliminated.

The purpose of the project is to improve safety and capacity within a segment of US 1, from the Autumn Way intersection to the NH 107 intersection.

The following are the Department's resolution of issues raised for this project during the Public Hearing process:

1. **NH State Senator Nancy Stiles, Donald Hawkins, Jason Janvrin, Aboul Khan, Edward Hess (Seabrook Selectmen) and Jim Mitchell, Vice President Tropic Star Developments, LLC.**: at the Hearing and through written testimony (from the Selectmen and Mr. Mitchell), expressed support for the project, but expressed concern with the proposed schedule, suggesting the project needs to be completed as soon as possible to help alleviate traffic congestion on US 1 in this area.

Response: The Department appreciates the support for the project, and recognizes the concern for the project schedule. The Department has developed a revised schedule to advertise the project in late 2015. This revised schedule allows time for the complicated commercial property acquisitions to be completed, as required by the widening. This schedule is aggressive, but allows for certainty in the acquisition of property. It is the Department's intent to expedite this effort. If the process of property acquisition is complete sooner than anticipated, the construction schedule will be advanced. The Department is evaluating creative methods to expedite the property acquisition process, which is the critical path relative to the schedule for this project.

2. **Edward Hess, Seabrook Selectman:** expressed concern that the Town would be required to maintain the reconstructed sidewalks, and the costs associated with that maintenance. He asked the Department to consider helping the Town with the sidewalk maintenance.

Response: Sidewalks exist on both sides of US 1, and the westerly side will be reconstructed as part of this project. The Department recognizes the costs associated with sidewalk maintenance, but also believes there is value to the Town with regard to pedestrian safety and accessibility. Sidewalks primarily benefit the adjoining neighborhoods, businesses, and the local community. It has been a long standing policy of the Department that the maintenance of sidewalk facilities is a local responsibility. It is noted that in April 2012, in an agreement with the Department, the Town formally acknowledged maintenance of sidewalks associated with this project.

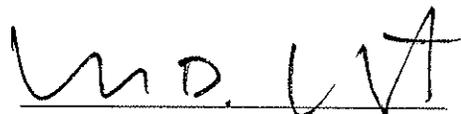
3. **Aboul Khan, Seabrook Selectman:** requested a sidewalk be constructed along the relocated portion of Autumn Way.

Response: The Department will consider this request, and coordinate with the Town as final design progresses. There are currently no sidewalks along Autumn Way or Pine Street. The Department proposes a widened shoulder along the relocated portion of Autumn Way to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. This widened shoulder is appropriate for this residential area with low traffic volume and speed. The widened shoulder would avoid the complex and expensive underground stormwater system required by the introduction of a vertical curb panel.

4. **Tom O'Hara, Seabrook Resident and property owner (parcel # 11),** expressed concern with the proposed widening of US 1, toward his property.

Response: The project will widen toward Mr. O'Hara's property, but no land acquisition is proposed. All widening is proposed within the existing highway right-of-way. Mr. O'Hara's two driveways will be perpetuated, and will be matched to the widened roadway. Temporary construction easements are proposed in order to construct a match to those driveways.

Date: 12/17/13



Christopher D. Clement, Sr.
Commissioner
N.H. Department of Transportation