

ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

**CORRIDOR AESTHETICS GROUP
MEETING NO. 4 REPORT**

MEETING DATE: May 22, 2002
SUBJECT: Route 18 Corridor Aesthetics Meeting #4
LOCATION: Smircina Residence, 3 Carpenter Road, New Brunswick, NJ

ATTENDEES:

Helen Erdey	Carpender Road	732-247-3391
Steve Hardegen	NJDEP/HP0	609-984-0141
Susan Kittredge	Mid. Cty Cultural	732-745-4489
Thomas Loughlin	City of N.B.	732-745-5007
Paul Morrissett	Newell Avenue	732-828-7458
Todd Smircina	Carpender Road	732-545-5771
Frank Wong	Rutgers Univ	732-445-2430 x 604
Cindy Bloom-Cronin	NJDOT Landscape	609-530-5676
Pamela Garrett	NJDOT Env.Svcs	609-530-2721
Brenda Hammer	NJDOT Landscape	609-530-5672
Ron Hart	NJDOT	609-530-2165
Steve Mikulak	NJDOT Comm. Re	609-530-6558
Ed Tomaszewski	NJDOT-Noise	609-530-2835
Jeff Grob	Vollmer Assoc.	212-366-5600
Noriko Maeda	Vollmer Assoc.	212-366-5600
Paul Nowicki	Gannett Fleming	908-755-0040
Nick Tufaro, PP,CLA	Schlesinger Assoc.	609-924-1818
Martine Culbertson	MA Culbertson	856-795-0524

MEETING SUMMARY:

Meeting No. 4 included the following main objectives: To prioritize the issues from CPT Meeting No. 14 to be considered by this group; to discuss the noise wall and retaining wall concepts; and to present pedestrian overpass concepts and streetscape elements. (Agenda attached)



Following introductions, the group identified the following issues--taken from CPT Meeting No. 14--as the ones of highest priority to be considered by the group (in no particular order of relevance):

HIGH PRIORITY

1. Replacement of trees
2. Aesthetic lighting
3. Structures should be as graffiti-proof as possible
4. Sidewalks and bikes--how close to traffic/aesthetics
5. Gateway concepts to encourage community feeling
6. Lighting and streetscape elements
7. Identify architectural features
8. Enhanced signage on Rte 18 corridor--aesthetics
9. Signal Aesthetics
10. Noise barriers/structural aesthetics

MEDIUM PRIORITY

1. Maintenance issue with existing landscaping: City maintains now, but future plans for area along Newell/Phelps
2. Richmond Street--pedestrian access city side to Boyd Park and development of park site area.

LOW PRIORITY

1. Safety and security considerations for the design features.
2. Signs--need to be designed to minimize graffiti and maintenance
3. Access to old Police site for development.
4. Boyd Park impacts acceptable w/enhancements at city docks.
5. Exxon at Commercial Ave and George St. is unrelated (City's acquisition, not NJDOT.
6. Carpenter Road concern for possible construction impacts of noise, debris and pollution.
7. Regional switching station for public utilities--New St overpass
8. Neighborhood traffic circulation flow discussions w/City.
9. Next step: Route 1/Route 18 problem statement status.

Once the group agreed on the highest priorities from the list, Jeff Grob reviewed comments he received on the preliminary wall treatment designs presented at Meeting No. 3. [Details of comments listed separately.]

The idea of "graffiti proof" wall treatments was discussed. Jeff indicated that almost any surface treatment could be graffiti-proof, as long as it's given the proper top coating. Timely maintenance through power washing is necessary for any surface type.

Next, a "tiered wall" concept was discussed. This is an option for exceedingly high retaining wall sections to break them up and allows for intermediate landscaping. Two sections of the project were identified as

possible sites for such a treatment: near Gibbons Court on Rutgers property near the George St. overpass and alongside Boyd Park. Frank Wong indicated that Rutgers would consider such a concept once developed more concretely, as additional maintenance would be required for landscaping care.

Jeff Grob then presented a brief overview of the various bridges that will run throughout the corridor. Two are designated as pedestrian overpasses, one between Paulus Blvd and Carpendar Road and one at Richmond St. These are being termed the "gateway" overpasses, as they fall at either end of the corridor. Special design considerations are in order for these-- particularly for the Paulus-Carpender Road bridge, as it will be the first and largest structure drivers will see as they enter the City of New Brunswick.

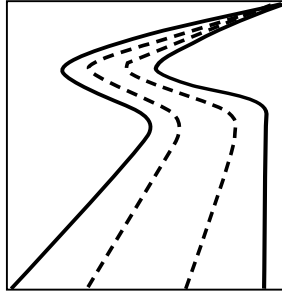
Next, there are three bridges for both vehicular as well as pedestrian traffic: at George St, at New Street and at Commercial Ave. Since they are so close in proximity, it makes sense for these three to share the same design. The final two "bridges" are the viaduct at George Street, as seen from the river, and the bridge on Rte 18 over Albany St. Design for these two structures will be incorporated into the roadway design and the surrounding other wall elements.

Jeff presented initial designs for the various corridor bridges for the group's overall reaction and comments. Particular emphasis was placed on the Paulus/Carpender Road overpass, as it is being positioned as the welcoming gateway. It was agreed that this site in particular demands a creative and exciting design, while tying it in with the rest of the project perhaps through the use of more traditional surface elements (i.e. stone, brick, wrought iron, etc.). Additional designs for the other bridges were then presented.

It was decided that copies of several of the bridge designs should be sent to each representative for more detailed comments to be presented at the next meeting tentatively scheduled for June 12, 2002. Time and date to be announced.

The following agenda items are promised to be discussed at the June 12th meeting: Comments on the initial bridge design concepts; a closer look at the Boyd Park elevations; the tiered wall concept for Gibbons Ct.; and a closer look at the number and lengths of retaining vs. noise walls.

Meeting Minutes prepared by :
Todd Smircina, CPT Community Representative



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AGENDA

May 22, 2002

Smircina Residence, 3 Carpender Road, New Brunswick, NJ

Objective: To prioritize the issues from CPT Meeting No. 14 to be addressed by this Group, to discuss the noise wall and retaining wall concepts, and to present pedestrian overpass concepts and streetscape elements.

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - Agenda and Goals
 - CPT Group Update

- II. Corridor Aesthetics Discussion
 - Prioritize Group Issues
 - Discuss Wall Treatment Concepts Comments
 - Discuss Bridge Treatment Concepts

- III. Summary and Close
 - Action Items / Next Meeting
 - Feedback / Closing Comments

