

ROUTE 18  
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

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**COMMUNITY  
PARTNERING TEAM**

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CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

**COMMUNITY PARTNERING TEAM  
MEETING NO. 2 REPORT**

June 25, 1999

**DATE:** June 18, 1999  
**TIME:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Conference Room, Middlesex County Planning Dept.,  
Elks Building, City of New Brunswick, NJ

**ATTENDEES:**

Members  
Herb August  
Robert Grimm  
Linda Hunter  
Thomas Loughlin  
Glenn Patterson  
Robert Spear  
Mona Terrell  
George Ververides  
Frank Wong  
Alternates  
John Bogar  
Helen Erdey  
Vincent Martinez  
Jose Sosa  
Invited Guests  
Anna Ashkenes  
James Baisley  
John Donnelly  
Mike Heenehan  
Douglas Joyce  
Linda LaSut  
Carl Nittinger

**REPRESENTING:**

Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc.  
New Jersey Turnpike Authority  
University Mews Homeowners Assoc.  
City of New Brunswick, Administration  
City of New Brunswick, Planning  
Rutgers, The State University of NJ  
NJ TRANSIT  
Middlesex County Planning Dept.  
Rutgers, The State Univ. of NJ  
  
City of New Brunswick, Engineering  
Carpender Road Area Neighborhood  
Middlesex County Engineering  
Johnson & Johnson  
  
Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Com.  
New Brunswick Development Corporation  
Piscataway Township  
NJ DEP, Green Acres Program  
East Brunswick Township  
NJTPA  
NJ DEP, State Historic Preservation Office



Steering Committee	
Bill Birch	NJDOT, Division of Project Management
Elkins Green	NJDOT, Division of Project Management
Michael Morgan	Gannett Fleming
Paul Nowicki	Gannett Fleming
Martine Culbertson	M. A. Culbertson
Visitors	
Ben Gindville	Gannett Fleming
Mike Sheehan	Gannett Fleming
Glenn Stevens	Gannett Fleming
Al Tavares	NJDOT, Bureau of Mobility Strategies
John Wenerl	Carpender Road Area Neighborhood

## **1. PURPOSE OF MEETING**

To gain a clear understanding of the specific transportation needs in the Route 18 corridor and obtain agreement on the purpose and need. To review alternatives previously studied and to begin to examine the initially preferred alternative. (Agenda attached).

## **2. MEETING SUMMARY**

Martine Culbertson, facilitator for the CPT, opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and reviewed the meeting agenda. The CPT Meeting No. 1 Report was then approved. After reviewing the agenda and meeting goals, Martine discussed the revised materials and press articles to be placed in the CPT handbook. She then asked each member to state a need they believe the project should address. Martine reviewed the list of key CPT issues and turned the meeting over to Bill Birch, the NJDOT Project Manager, to discuss the Transportation Improvement Program Process.

Bill distributed a chart illustrating the transportation project development stages used internally by NJDOT. He explained that this project has an extensive history and is now in the process of being worked into the Final Scope Development Stage. A second chart was distributed to show the Project Delivery Process and the number of steps which must be conducted to move a transportation project forward in Final Scope Development. Bill concluded by explaining that previous studies were not successful in moving this project forward due to community concerns and opposition to the proposed transportation improvements. The purpose of this community partnering team effort is to address community issues and refinements to the preferred alternative. Most likely, a public hearing will be held to obtain formal comments and public agencies review the environmental document which contains the formal comments. A part of this review is to look to see if there is public support. Before having a public information center, the NJDOT would like to obtain from this community partnering team reasonable and probable acceptance of the preferred alternative. A concern was shared regarding the excessive length of time for the process and how land use regulations change in a different time frame affecting the design for transportation improvements.

Paul Nowicki, the Project Manager from Gannett Fleming, then presented the purpose and need for Route 18 corridor improvements by first reading the problem statement and then displaying the list of project needs. A draft of the Project Purpose and Need was distributed. He asked all members to review this document with their constituents and fax comments to Martine Culbertson or to Gannett Fleming. The transcribed list of the CPT issues written by the members and invited guests was also distributed for review. Paul then presented the previous alternatives studied in the corridor (Alternative No. 4, 3, and 2) and described the features which did not satisfy design criteria. He also explained that while some elements of these alternatives were beneficial, they did not meet the purpose and needs as defined by the project problem statement and list of needs.

Paul concluded the presentation with the Initially Preferred Alternative and distributed a handout which included a map of the Initially Preferred Alternative. He explained the collector distributor road concept. Members began to ask questions concerning consideration for bike and pedestrian enhancements. Martine asked that the members hold those questions for the discussion in the break out groups where it would be more effective.

After a five minute break, the CPT broke into five groups. Each group was given a large map to work with, a writing tablet, asked to select someone to scribe, indicate the group participants, and identify the issues of the Initially Preferred Alternative. They were asked to mark up the map to identify what they liked and what needed further refinement or design consideration.

After 20 minutes, Martine asked the five groups to end their discussions and that the information generated by each group would be shared at the next CPT meeting to be held Tuesday, July 13th. To summarize the meeting, the meeting goals were reviewed and then members provided feedback and action items for the next CPT meeting. The following comments were noted: liked the small breakout groups and to continue them at the next meeting; liked the meeting process, can see progress, request for status report on the Route 18 extension project, would like to get right into the information generated from each group at the next meeting.

Regarding the text on the Initially Preferred Alternative, Mike Morgan of Gannett Fleming noted that the traffic volumes should state "in both directions" and to keep in mind that this handout is dated material from an Officials Briefing in 1998, so the project schedule on the back page is outdated. Paul Nowicki reminded members to review the draft Project Purpose and Need document and to share the information from this meeting with their constituents for additional comments. The members were thanked for their participation and the meeting was adjourned at noon.

### **3. ACTION ITEMS**

- Members and Guests review the draft Purpose and Need document and the CPT issues. Provide any comments to Martine Culbertson via phone, fax, or email. Fax number: 856-795-5254.
- Members and Guests replace revised information materials in the CPT Handbook as indicated by the date and section on the bottom of each page. Project handouts go in Section 3 and press articles go in Section 7.
- Martine Culbertson obtain comments on the draft document and CPT issues, prepare agenda and materials for next meeting, write and distribute meeting report.
- Paul Nowicki review comments marked on the maps and tablets, continue Final Scope Development studies, and coordinate with the Steering Committee on action items for the next CPT meeting.

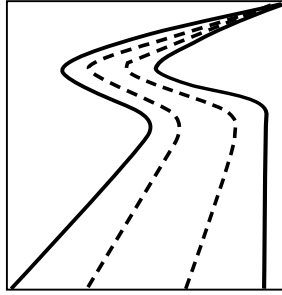
### **4. NEXT MEETING**

Date: Tuesday, July 13, 1999  
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Note: Next meeting extended to 4 hrs  
Location: Middlesex County Planning Dept. Conference Room  
Elks Building, City of New Brunswick

Report prepared by:

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Martine Culbertson, CPT Facilitator



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**AGENDA**

June 18, 1999

Objective: To gain a clear understanding of the specific transportation needs in the Route 18 corridor and obtain agreement on the problem statement. To review alternatives previously studied and to begin examining the community issues.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Approval of Meeting Report No. 1
- Community Partnering Team Review

II. Transportation Improvement Program Process

- Project Development Stages
- Project Schedule - Where We Are

III. RT. 18 Corridor Improvements

- Purpose and Need
- Feasibility Study Alternatives
- Initially Preferred Alternative

Break

- Breakout Groups - Alternatives/Issues
- Present Results

IV. Summary and Close

- Meeting Schedule / Action Items
- Feedback and Closing Comments



**State of New Jersey Department of Transportation**

Division of Project Management