

ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

**COMMUNITY PARTNERING TEAM
MEETING NO. 3 REPORT**

July 20, 1999

DATE: July 13, 1999
TIME: :00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Conference Room, Middlesex County Planning Dept.,
Elks Building, City of New Brunswick, NJ

ATTENDEES:

Members
Herb August
Robert Grimm
Linda Hunter
Marie Inzano-Speak
Rick Lloyd
Glenn Patterson
Todd Smircina
Robert Spear
Mona Terrell
Frank Wong
Alternates
Helen Erdey
Vincent Martino
Bruce McCracken
Invited Guests
Anna Ashkenes
James Baisley
Linda LaSut
Carl Nittinger

REPRESENTING:

Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc.
New Jersey Turnpike Authority
University Mews Homeowners Assoc.
Newell Avenue Area Neighborhood
Johnson & Johnson
City of New Brunswick, Planning
Carpender Road Area Neighborhood
Rutgers, The State University of NJ
NJ TRANSIT
Rutgers, The State Univ. of NJ

Carpender Road Area Neighborhood
Middlesex County Engineering
Middlesex County Planning Dept.

Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Com.
New Brunswick Development Corporation
NJTPA
NJ DEP, State Historic Preservation Office



Steering Committee

Bill Birch	NJDOT, Division of Project Management
Bill Cochran	NJDOT, Community Relations
Elkins Green	NJDOT, Environmental Services
Michael Morgan	Gannett Fleming
Paul Nowicki	Gannett Fleming
Martine Culbertson	M. A. Culbertson
Visitors	
Ben Gindville	Gannett Fleming
Jay Pandya	NJDOT, Environmental Services
Glenn Stevens	Gannett Fleming
Al Tavares	NJDOT, Bureau of Mobility Strategies

1. PURPOSE OF MEETING

To examine the initially preferred alternative; to continue the breakout discussion groups and present the issues identified by each group; and to present the congestion management process and the environmental process. (Agenda attached).

2. MEETING SUMMARY

Martine Culbertson, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. After participants introduced themselves, she reviewed the agenda and goals for the meeting. The members approved the meeting report from CPT Meeting No. 2. Martine turned the meeting over to Paul Nowicki to review the purpose and need for improvements in the Route 18 corridor and the initially preferred alternative.

Utilizing the display board, Paul presented the Initially Preferred Alternative and reviewed the collector distributor roadway concept. He also provided details at the major intersections along the corridor. He explained the turning movement restrictions proposed at Paulus Boulevard and the traffic flow conditions at George Street, Commercial Avenue, New Street, and the Route 27 area. He then distributed an artist rendering of the Commercial Avenue interchange concept. Questions were raised concerning design of pedestrian and handicap access to Boyd Park. Comments were also given concerning pedestrian access at each of the key intersections and concern for traffic flow on the streets which connect to Paulus, George, and Commercial. Paul distributed a list of the issues generated from the previous CPT meeting's breakout groups. He asked members to make note of these issues during the break out group discussions.

After a five minute break, the CPT resumed the breakout groups from the previous meeting. Each group was given the large corridor plan, asked to review issues as listed on the sheet and add any new thoughts or issues. Group No. 4 and No. 5 merged, so after the discussion period four presentations were made (Group No. 2, 3, 4/5 and 1). Some of the issues noted were: concern for elimination of the left hand turn at the Paulus Boulevard jughandle, vehicles making U-turns in that area having to use George Street and Gibbons Court, the bus turn out location and buses that would have to reemerge into traffic, loss of view at Commercial Avenue of the waterfront, Burnet Street backups, access to the park at Richmond, bike and pedestrian access location by the road or in the park, walls at Carpender Road due to sound and debris coming from the acceleration of buses and trucks at Paulus, pedestrian access on both sides of Commercial Avenue, solid wall versus piers and its affect on aesthetics and safety, width of the pedestrian and bike access for emergency vehicle access and movement of people to and from the park, proper signage for collector distributor, and request to break into groups by topic at the next meeting. The issues of each group were listed in summary on newsprint, the writing tablets, and on the corridor plans. The information from each group will be transcribed for distribution at the next CPT meeting.

Paul then discussed the project schedule. He distributed a project schedule and milestone chart to illustrate where we are in the project development process. Al Tavares, NJDOT Mobility Strategies

Section Chief, then presented an explanation of the process of Congestion Management System (CMS) which is required by the Federal government on transportation improvement projects utilizing Federal funds and where additional single occupant vehicle (SOV) capacity is being considered. It is necessary to examine all possible strategies to improve the movement of goods and people without adding SOV capacity to a highway. Al explained with this project, it is believed that the improvements are considered operational flow and safety improvements, not additional capacity. The project study team will be meeting with the agencies involved in this process to seek a ruling and determine the requirements or exemptions. The results will be reported to the CPT.

Paul then introduced Elkins Green, NJDOT Division of Project Management Environmental Services Supervising Planner, to present the Environmental Process required by Federal and State laws on transportation improvement projects. He displayed an environmental constraints map showing the areas of study to determine potential impacts to Cultural Resources which include historic and archeological sites, hazardous waste sites, wetlands, air, noise, water, and socioeconomic factors with the initially preferred alternative. The Community Partnering Team as a part of public involvement is a part of this process. Elkins emphasized that the studies required will depend upon the recommended improvements which address the purpose and need for the project. Members requested a copy of the map of the potential environmental impacts along Route 18 corridor for their handbooks.

In summary, Paul discussed some of the action items for the next meeting: traffic volumes at Paulus Boulevard going in to Dewey Heights area, bus pull off options, pedestrian access concepts at Commercial Avenue, bike path options, extending the collector distributor roadway beyond Commercial toward Route 27. He noted utilizing computer simulation at the next meeting if appropriate to demonstrate traffic flow. A question was asked regarding the status of the properties to be removed along Route 18. Bill Birch responded that there are studies and legal processing required prior to demolition and they are expected to be removed in the fall.

The feedback comments included: breakout groups by topic at next meeting, map of potential environmental constraints, operational simulation, riverside rendering, more time for dialogue on alignment issues, extend simulation beyond both ends of the project, keep issues on table to be heard, and keep up attendance. Martine asked members for feedback on meeting schedule and time. The members agreed to three hours from 9:00 am to noon for the next meeting on Tuesday, August 17th. Martine thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

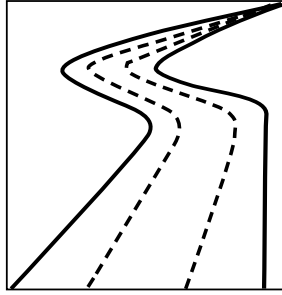
3. ACTION ITEMS

- Members and Guests review initially preferred alternative issues and concepts with their constituents. Provide any project comments to Mike Morgan at Gannett Fleming or bring them to the next meeting. CPT issues or comments, please contact Martine Culbertson.
- Paul Nowicki review issues and comments marked on the maps/tablets, continue engineering studies, and coordinate with the Steering Committee on action items for the next CPT meeting.
- Gannett Fleming to provide map of environmental constraints in the Route 18 corridor for the CPT handbooks.
- Martine Culbertson track CPT issues, prepare agenda and materials for next meeting, write and distribute meeting report and handouts.

4. NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, August 17, 1999
Time: 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Location: Middlesex County Planning Dept. Conference Room
Elks Building, City of New Brunswick

Report prepared by:



ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

CPT MEETING No. 3

AGENDA

July 13, 1999

Objective: To examine the initially preferred alternative; to continue the breakout discussion groups and present the issues and refinements identified by each group; and to present the congestion management process and the environmental process.

- I. Welcome and Agenda Items
 - Community Partnering Team Update
- II. Route 18 Transportation Corridor Improvements
 - Review Purpose and Need
 - Recap Initially Preferred Alternative
- III. IPA - Issues and Refinements
 - Breakout Groups
 - Present Group Results
- Break
 - Project Milestones
 - Congestion Management Process
 - Environmental Process
- IV. Summary and Close
 - Action Items / Meeting Schedule
 - Feedback and Closing Comments



State of New Jersey Department of Transportation

Division of Project Management