

ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

**COMMUNITY PARTNERING TEAM
MEETING NO. 4 REPORT**

August 30, 1999

DATE: August 17, 1999
TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Conference Room, Middlesex County Planning Dept.,
Elks Building, City of New Brunswick, NJ

ATTENDEES:

Members

Herb August
Bob Grimm
Linda Hunter
Tom Kelso
Rick Lloyd
Glenn Patterson
Todd Smircina
George Ververides
Frank Wong

Alternates

Helen Erdey
Vincent Martino

Invited Guests

Anna Aschkenes
James Baisley
John Donnelly
Michael Heenehan
Doug Joyce
Ken Koschek
Linda LaSut
Carl Nittinger

Steering Committee

Bill Birch
Barbara Bush
Elkins Green
Mike Morgan
Paul Nowicki
Martine Culbertson

Visitors

Robert Matthews
Jay Pandya
Mike Sheehan
Glenn Stevens
Adnew Temessa

REPRESENTING:

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

Carpender Road Area Neighborhood
Middlesex County Engineering

Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Com.
New Brunswick Development Corporation
Piscataway Township
NJ DEP, Green Acres
Township of East Brunswick
NJDEP, Office of Program Coordination
NJTPA
NJ DEP, State Historic Preservation Office

NJDOT, Division of Project Management
NJDOT, Community Relations
NJDOT, Environmental Services
Gannett Fleming
Gannett Fleming
M. A. Culbertson

Gannett Fleming
NJDOT, Environmental Services
Gannett Fleming
Gannett Fleming
NJDOT, Bureau of Mobility Strategies



1. PURPOSE OF MEETING

To examine issues of the Initially Preferred Alternative (IPA); to break into focus group discussions by areas of interest; and to present the ideas and refinements identified by each group (Agenda attached).

2. MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting began with introductions and then a review of the agenda and goals by Martine Culbertson. She then provided the CPT update which included a new member Mr. Jim Zullo from the New Brunswick Parking Authority and that an effort is being made to include residents of the Commercial Avenue area. As requested from the previous meeting, an environmental constraints map was distributed by Mike Morgan for the handbooks.

Paul Nowicki then distributed a handout of the Initially Preferred Alternatives (IPA) Refinement/Concepts Breakout Groups for each of the key areas as identified by the issues raised at the previous CPT meetings: Paulus Boulevard Area, George Street Interchange, Commercial Avenue Interchange, and the Route 27 Interchange. A computer Corridor Simulation Program was then presented by Mike Morgan to demonstrate the future traffic flow for the No-Build roadway condition and for the Initially Preferred Alternative (IPA) during a.m. and p.m. peak hours.

The following questions were raised:

Q - Does the future year growth take into account the development in the area particularly on George Street?

A - Yes, volume is accommodated, it is accounted for in the volume data entered into the model.

Q - What will be the speed limit on the collector distributor roadway?

A - The collector distributor road would likely be designed and posted at 35 miles per hour. Route 18 would likely be 50-55 miles per hour.

Q - How will Paulus Boulevard if you leave the light there, be efficient?

A - It will be more efficient because of the acceleration lane from Route 1 and the elimination of the westbound left turns and u-turns from Route 18 resulting in less weaving.

Q - With the elimination of the left turn at Paulus Boulevard means more vehicles added to George Street. Can this work and did you consider the u-turn vehicles?

A - Further analysis is necessary, however with the improvements to the George Street interchange, it would be able to accommodate this additional traffic volume.

Q - How will you access Carpender Road when traveling northbound?

A - The access will remain the same, if you are traveling southbound on Route 18 and wish to get to Carpender Road, you will take use the jug handle at Paulus Boulevard and take a left on to Route 18 to travel northbound to Carpender Road on the right.

Paul Nowicki then briefly reviewed the concepts for each area so the CPT could understand what each breakout group would be discussing. The issues and concepts are listed on the handout titled, IPA Refinement/Concepts Breakout Group dated August 17, 1999, distributed at this meeting.

During the review of the IPA concepts, some questions were raised for each area as follows:

Paulus Boulevard Area

Q - Where will the bike way be? Will it be by the river in the park or by the roadway?

A - First the traffic flow concepts must be examined and the roadway design be defined prior to the bike way. Because there are a number of options for the bike and pedestrian access which could be considered once the roadway design concept is clear, the location of the bike way will be discussed later.

George Street Interchange

Q - What are the potential impacts to adding a southbound exit at George Street?

A - The group needs to examine and discuss the potential effects of the proposed concept of adding a southbound exit from Route 18 at George Street.

Commercial Avenue Interchange

Q - Which design has better aesthetics, the concept to elevate the collector distributor roadway or the one to elevate Route 18?

A - The group needs to look at these concepts for potential effects.

A comment was raised believing the IPA with the collector distributor raised could provide more of a vista view and have less obstruction to the river than four elevated lanes of Route 18 and u-turns may be better at George Street than at Commercial Avenue. It was noted that these considerations could be further discussed in the breakout groups.

Route 27 Interchange

No questions were raised while Paul introduced the refinements/concepts for this area.

Mike Morgan then distributed a handout entitled, Summary of IPA Breakout Group Discussion Issues from July 16, 1999, for use during the group discussions. The CPT took a five minute break and then proceeded to divide into the four groups: #1- Paulus Boulevard Area, #2- George Street Interchange, #3-Commercial Avenue and #4-Route 27 Interchange.

After forty minutes, each group presented a brief summary of their discussions. The comments on newsprint and the notes for each group will be transcribed and distributed at the next meeting.

Paul then discussed the project schedule to hold a public information meeting in October and the CPT agreed to have two meetings in September in order to discuss the refinements and concepts in more detail. The two meeting dates for September will be Tuesday, September 14 and Tuesday, September 28, same location and same time 9:00 - Noon.

Martine then asked each member for action items or feedback: the CPT requested that representatives for the apartment complexes on Commercial Avenue be invited to participate on the team, the public information meeting show the IPA and refinements as supported by the CPT, input for the public information meeting to be a topic at one of the next CPT meetings, since economic factors play a part in the selection of the design elements: have a reality check that the refinements are feasible, showing progress, keep the process and discussions going. Bill and Paul thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

3. ACTION ITEMS

- Members and Guests review concepts with their constituents. Provide any comments to Mike Morgan at Gannett Fleming or bring them to the next meeting. CPT issues or comments, please contact Martine Culbertson.


3. ACTION ITEMS (continued)

- Paul Nowicki to review IPA issues/concepts, and to coordinate with the Steering Committee on action items for the next CPT meeting.
- Martine Culbertson to track CPT issues, prepare agenda and materials for next meeting, write and distribute meeting report and handouts.
- Gannett Fleming to track IPA design issues and concepts, model options, and provide technical information for next meeting.

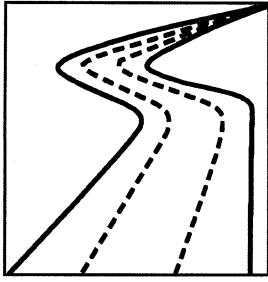
4. NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, September 14, 1999
Time: 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Location: Middlesex County Planning Dept. Conference Room
Elks Building, City of New Brunswick

Report prepared by:



Martine Culbertson, CPT Facilitator



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TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
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CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

CPT MEETING No. 4

AGENDA

August 17, 1999

Objective: To examine issues of the Initially Preferred Alternative (IPA); to break into focus group discussions by areas of interest; and to present the ideas and refinements identified by each group.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Agenda Review and Goals
- Community Partnering Team Update

II. Route 18 Transportation Corridor Information

- Introduce Concepts to Address CPT Issues
- Year 2021 Build Simulation - IPA with C-D Road to Rt. 27

Break

III. IPA Concepts/Refinements

- Focus Group Discussions
- Present Group Results

IV. Summary and Close

- Project and CPT Meeting Schedule
- Feedback and Action Items

