

ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT NO. 17

PROJECT: ROUTE 18 - Section 2F, 7E, and 11H
City of New Brunswick
Middlesex County, New Jersey

DATE: Wednesday, September 22, 2004

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Middlesex County Planning Conference Room, Elks Building,
New Brunswick, NJ

ATTENDEES:

Pamela Garrett	NJDOT, Environmental Project Support	609-530-2721
Lawrence Kolodziej	Middlesex Cty Planning Dept	732-745-3283
Steve Lavelle	NJDOT, Program Manager	609-530-2546
Thomas Loughlin	City of New Brunswick	732-745-5007
Steve Mikulak	NJDOT/OCM	609-530-6558
Kiran Patel	NJDOT, Project Manager	609-530-2498
Mr. Sharad Rana	NJDOT, Project Coordinator	609-530-2196
George Ververides	Middlesex Cty Planning Dept	732-745-3013
Tim White	City of New Brunswick	732-745-5056
Frank Wong	Rutgers University	732-445-2430X604
Morteza Ansari	Keep Middlesex Moving	732-745-2326
Tony Gambilonghi	Middlesex Cty Planning Dept	732-745-3843
Jack Molenaar	Rutgers University	732-445-2430X650
Paul Nowicki	Gannett Fleming	908-755-0040
Martine Culbertson	M.A. Culbertson, LLC	856-795-8485

SUMMARY:

To review project status and schedule; to follow-up on project items such as jurisdictional agreements, congestion relief efforts, communications plan, and determine next steps (Agenda attached)



POINTS OF DISCUSSION:

1. Kiran Patel reviewed the project schedule: final design is 99.99% complete, final plans to be completed September 30, 2004, advertise contract in November, award at the end of the year and notice to proceed anticipated for February 2005.
2. Paul Nowicki reviewed the design items: 2,258 drawing plans include many architectural treatments, context sensitive design elements and the traffic management staging. The design has been reviewed and revised to reduce costs. The major changes to the design are removal of the Richmond Street Pedestrian Bridge (to be constructed a later time), removal of the pylons on New Street (they will remain on RT. 27 and George St., Commercial never had any), alteration of materials such as pavers and form liners to find value and savings. Steve Lavelle noted the final choice of items must be approved by NJDOT and will be reviewed by a materials review group including members of the CPT.
3. Utility work is moving forward. Most advance work will be done offline with only shoulder closings. The relocation of utilities must be coordinated with the traffic staging. Verizon is still working on their plans. Steve Lavelle to coordinate with the point person at Verizon to accelerate the plans. *ACTION ITEM*
4. Kiran Patel noted that the special events held in the area have been added to the contract specs.
5. Paul Nowicki noted the change in staging at Paulus Boulevard area allows three lanes to be kept in each direction. There will be two short events (approx. a weekend) that will reduce 18 to two lanes at Paulus Blvd. Route 18 will maintain all lanes in both directions except at Commercial Avenue northbound without the signal it will become two lanes.
6. Steve Lavelle informed members with the cost reductions, the contractor must still have approval for materials. Specifications require the contractor to submit material selection for landscaping and materials including staining colors. A group will be formed to examine material selection of aesthetic materials for mockups. The group will meet at the beginning of construction (tentatively spring 2005). *ACTION ITEM*
7. NJDOT will try to have the contractor accelerate construction to minimize traffic impact through incentives. They include lane occupancy charges, certain ramps and the Route 27 bike/pedestrian underpass construction activities, and major interchange reconstruction. Steve requested Gannett Fleming to provide a summary of traffic management strategies included in the project. *ACTION ITEM*
8. Pam Garrett reviewed the environmental progress: Green Acres permitting with the City and the County is complete, DEP permitting for dewatering discharge to be approved (October), and environmental re-evaluation document will be completed in two weeks. The cultural resources remaining item is the Agnew House, which has a four year period to resolve issues. *ACTION ITEM*
9. A question raised regarding flood control or prevention. The design does not address reducing the 100-year flood plain. The DEP regulations do not allow for changing flood storage conditions because of the potential impact to the regional area upstream and downstream. Permits have been acquired, and the design does include storm water management best practices regarding drainage and storm water runoff.

10. Steve Lavelle noted that SHPO should be a member of the aesthetic materials review group. *ACTION ITEM*
11. PSE&G is currently stating they will not maintain corridor lighting unless they build/install certain elements. The current design meets their standard requirements but needs to be reviewed and approved. Paul Nowicki is scheduling a meeting with PSE&G, the City and NJDOT to discuss the lighting issues. *ACTION ITEM*
12. NJDOT will maintain the architectural lighting on the vehicular bridge structures because PSE&G will not. The maintenance issue of pedestrian bridge lighting needs to be resolved. This is a jurisdictional agreement issue. The next jurisdictional meeting will be scheduled once outstanding issues have been analyzed with in the next month such as the maintenance of the multi-use path by the County. *ACTION ITEM*
13. Most Right-of-Way issues have been resolved. J&J right of entry is to be received shortly. A waiver is required from FHWA on the Riverside Towers property and Rosemeont Care Center. Parcel 19, a County parcel had State House Commission approval and a latter was sent to Mr. VanNest at middlesex County authorizing the transfer. NJDOT is requesting Middlesex County to sign the Right of Entry since April 2004 without the final release documents from NJDEP. George Ververides will contact Bill VanNest to coordinate this effort. *ACTION ITEM*
14. The Detmer property is resolved and will be part of the early demolition contract together with the police station and the gas station properties. The contract is to be executed in October 2004, so the properties should be demolished by the end of the year.
15. An agreement regarding the Richmond Street Pedestrian Overpass is under review by the Mayor and his staff. Some amendments are needed and will be sent to NJDOT. Tom Loughlin will coordinate. *ACTION ITEM*
16. The Jurisdictional Agreement for the maintenance of the northbound multi-use path involves contingencies to providing a facility for county equipment storage with in the park. NJDOT is pursuing funding to construct. The park area is City property, so further discussion on this issue is needed between the parties: NJDOT, City and County. Steve Lavelle to coordinate. *ACTION ITEM*
17. Based upon other projects in the State, the option to enter into jurisdictional agreements cannot be delayed according to NJDOT project management. It must be determined and signed prior to construction.
18. The Jurisdictional Meeting report from July 27th has been distributed and comments from the City were reviewed and incorporated.
19. Frank Wong distributed a letter addressed to the Commissioner requesting the study of traffic according to the scope described in the handout at the Congestion Relief meeting. Steve noted the recommendation to analyze “park and rides” and bus options, however he must wait to hear from his management regarding the direction. Steve will notify the Steering Committee of the outcome. *ACTION ITEM*
20. Paul Nowicki explained that a traffic study and model would require time and funding which may be better spent analyzing the proposed solutions such as potential parking areas and mechanisms to encourage motorists to leave their cars and take the bus service. An estimated 600-800 vehicles peak hour will be detoured at certain stages. This could be used to gage the vehicles that must be parked to support the potential bus service. Employer incentives or requirements to encourage or force motorists to take the bus service are needed for successful implementation. Paul suggested a possible forum to

address or pursue bus shuttle and park n'ride options as part of the Traffic Management Task Force. Steve Lavelle acknowledged the need for a summary of the traffic management strategies implemented in the project and to create a Traffic Management Plan. He noted the concern for truck movements in the area as well. Steve will notify the Steering Committee of the direction from NJDOT front office. The recommendation from the Steering Committee is to do more and do it now. *ACTION ITEM*

21. Web cams are to be installed by NJDOT Traffic Operations North. Dennis Motiani is the coordinator for this effort from Traffic Ops North. Rutgers Communications should contact him if interested in linking to the cameras for real time traffic images. The location of the cameras is at George Street interchange and at Commercial Avenue. Rutgers suggested a camera to be positioned on George Street, however NJDOT is only authorized to mount cameras on Route 18 under their jurisdiction.
22. Martine distributed and discussed the revised draft Communications Plan. She noted that much of the text has been consolidated, however more revisions will be done to direct the reader to various sources for additional information such as links to other web sites on the stakeholder organizations in the corridor. Martine will contact some of the Communications Task Force members for clarity and input on the network charts. Also sample documents of the communication tools will be included in an appendix. The Steering Committee members provided some comments and revisions to the network charts at the meeting, which will be modified and sent for review. Steve asked the members to review the document and charts and send any additional revisions to Martine by October 6, 2004. *ACTION ITEM*
23. The next step for the CPT will be a meeting tentatively held in November 2004. The purpose of the meeting will be to introduce new members of the CPT, present the project status and schedule, provide information on the final design and traffic staging plans, type of meetings to be held during construction, and review the Communications Plan. Martine will coordinate with the Steering Committee on logistics and notification for the meeting. *ACTION ITEM*
24. Steve Lavelle closed the meeting summarizing with next steps: final design plan will be in by September 30th, a materials selection review group will be formed at the appropriate time, Gannett Fleming to provide a summary of the traffic management strategies now, development of a traffic management plan will be determined once Steve has obtained direction from NJDOT management, and a CPT meeting should be tentatively held in November of this year. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

KEY ACTION ITEMS

1. Steve Lavelle/Kiran Patel – Items 3, 6, 12, 16, 19, 20, 22
2. Pam Garrett – Item 8
3. Paul Nowicki/Gannett Fleming – Items 7, 11, 20
4. Tom Loughlin – Items 11, 12, 15, 22
5. George Ververides/County – Items 13, 16, 22
6. Frank Wong/Rutgers – Items 21, 22
7. Martine Culbertson – Items 6, 10, 18, 20, 22, 23

NEXT MEETING - CPT Meeting No. 17

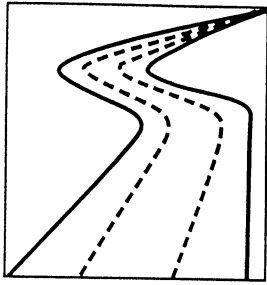
Date: November 2004 (tentative)

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: City of New Brunswick, NJ

We believe the foregoing to be an accurate summary of discussions and related decisions. We would appreciate notification of exceptions or corrections to the minutes within three (3) working days of receipt. Without notification, we will consider these minutes to be record of fact.

Martine Culbertson
CPT Facilitator



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AGENDA

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10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Objective: To review project status and schedule; to follow-up on project items such as jurisdictional agreements, congestion relief efforts, communications plan, and determine next steps.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Agenda and Goals
- Project Status and Schedule

II. Project Items

- Jurisdictional Agreements
- Staging and Traffic Management
- Congestion Relief Meeting Review
- Environmental and Agency Issues
- Revised Communications Plan
- Other Items

III. Summary and Close

- Action Items / Next Steps
- Closing Comments

