

ROUTE 18  
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

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**COMMUNITY  
PARTNERING TEAM**

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CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

**CORRIDOR AESTHETICS GROUP  
MEETING NO. 5 REPORT**

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday June 18, 2002  
**SUBJECT:** Route 18 Corridor Aesthetics Meeting #5  
**LOCATION:** Middlesex County Planning Conference Room  
Elks Building, Conference Room, 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.Sves     | 609-530-2721       |
| Brenda Hamme        | NJDOT Landscape    | 609-530-5672       |
| Ron Hart            | NJDOT              | 609-530-2165       |
| Steve Mikulak       | NJDOT Comm. Rel    | 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:**

The meeting's topics included a discussion of bridge and wall relationships, noise wall locations and to form recommendations for the upcoming CPT Steering Committee Meeting (Agenda attached).



## **POINTS OF DISCUSSION:**

After introductions, Paul Nowicki reviewed the group's comments concerning the location of the pedestrian overpass at Carpender Road, and the group's comments concerning the initial designs for the overpasses, bridges and walls. Primary attention was made the Carpender Road pedestrian overpass. Neighborhood objection to the open ramping, exposing Carpender Road to road noise and debris were taken into consideration and the plans reworked to continue the barrier wall alongside the overpass ramping to the street.

### **Bridge Design Options**

Next, Jeff Grob of Vollmer Associates, presented four design options for the Carpender Road bridge (the gateway to New Brunswick), modified since the last meeting. Four sketches included a mostly stone facade, with arched steel above and arched girder below; a mostly steel version, arched at top, slightly arched girder; a straight girder with concrete abutment and the fourth a combination of design elements. All contained graceful iron fencing across the bridges.

### **Carpender Road Pedestrian Overpass Ramping**

A good deal of attention was directed to the ramping from the bridge to the street level. Neighborhood concerns centered on design the ramp to avoid noise, and curtail the possibility of turning the "fun looking ramping into a skateboarding and rollerblading playground" for neighborhood children. Carpender Road urged the group and Vollmer Associates to create a design to both maximize privacy to Carpender Road, (whose properties abut the roadway), while directing the ramping in the most efficient direction towards the bus stop, located between Carpender Road and Paulus Blvd.

### **Other Bridge Designs**

Following the Carpender Road overpass discussion, Jeff displayed three other bridge designs for George Street, the Albany St., underpass and the New Street bridge. Each showed common elements to the Carpender Road gateway bridge, but offered individual designs. The group relayed high praise for the designs. Vollmer Associates agreed to send copies of the bridge designs to the group members for more detailed analysis and comments regarding the various wall elements.

### **Noise Wall Locations**

A discussion of the noise wall followed. The southbound lane walls will include a combination of wall and natural berm, while the northbound lanes will include wall and possible landscape planting. Rutgers requested the possibility of a tiered wall with irrigation next to the Douglass campus entrance, while Boyd Park decisions are still being discussed. Further design considerations of these concepts will be presented to the Steering committee.

**Recommendations to Steering Committee**

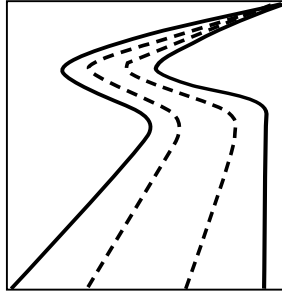
The final discussion focused on recommendations from this group to the Steering Committee to include:

1. To replace trees along the corridor if unable to move existing trees.
2. To create an overall Aesthetic lighting plan.
3. All designs to be developed as graffiti-proof as possible.
4. The sidewalks and bike paths to have no barrier between roadways and walkways for safety reasons.

It was agreed to relay this group's recommendations to the Steering Committee and to the CPT meeting, tentatively planned for July.

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Meeting Minutes prepared by :  
Todd Smircina, CPT Community Representative



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**CORRIDOR AESTHETICS GROUP  
MEETING NO. 5**

**AGENDA - DRAFT**

June 12, 2002

Elks Conference Room, Elks Bldg., New Brunswick, NJ

Objective: To review the Group Issues, to discuss the bridge concepts, pedestrian overpasses, and present streetscape elements; to develop recommendations to bring forward to the Steering Committee and for next CPT meeting.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Agenda and Goals
- CPT Group Issues Review

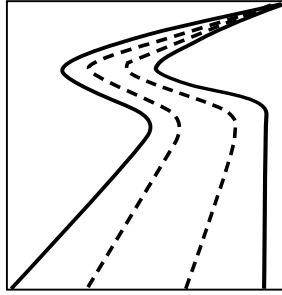
II. Corridor Aesthetics Discussion

- Bridge Treatment Concepts Comments
- Pedestrian Overpass Concepts Comments
- Streetscape Elements
- Recommendations

III. Summary and Close

- Action Items / Next Meeting
- Feedback / Closing Comments





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## CPT CORRIDOR AESTHETICS GROUP MTG. NO.5 – NEWSPRINT NOTES

### **Pedestrian Overpass Comments**

Overpass higher than wall-concern for privacy in neighborhood and noise

Curved lower arch preferred to straight- however this increases the height of overpass

Possible solutions:

1. Move ramp away
  2. Physical screen on fencing
  3. Landscaping, visual screening with trees
- Lighting concerns: recessed with minimal disturbance to neighbors

### **Bridges**

Each one has common elements, but slight variations

Color and Texture factors to consider

### **Noise Walls**

Develop conceptually- provide all concept locations, wanted

Max: wall vs. landscaping

### **Corridor Aesthetics Recommendations**

- (1) Develop noise wall concepts in locations as previously identified and discussed
- (2) Develop concepts to minimize visual and noise from Pedestrian Overpass at Carpender Road Cul-de-sac
- (3) Develop concepts with irrigation system- jurisdiction agreement with Rutgers for tiered landscape walls at Gibbons Campus entrance from Route 18 at George Street
- (4) Boyd Park noise wall - show concept of noise wall and without at Public Hearing for comments on either
- (5) Recommend replacement of trees and movement with similar size and quality as possible
- (6) Aesthetics and streetscape elements to be discussed in future CPT group meetings, also architectural features further refined with the design
- (7) Structure and elements in the corridor should be graffiti proof and low maintenance
- (8) Sidewalks and bikes will be examined by the Design Development Group
- (9) Gateway concept to give community welcome feeling to New Brunswick
- (10) Landscape features to be discussed at future Group meetings
- (11) Signage and signals to be discussed future Group meeting
- (12) Group supports the need for a safety workshop with police, fire EMS to examine safety features of the corridor

Outstanding Issues

Newell Avenue / Phelps Avenue closure

