

ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

**COMMUNITY PARTNERING TEAM
MEETING NO. 13 REPORT**

April 9, 2001

DATE: March 1, 2001
TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Conference Room, Middlesex County Planning Dept.
Elks Building, City of New Brunswick, NJ
ATTENDEES: Listed at the end of the report

1. PURPOSE OF MEETING

To present the Route 18 conceptual model, the progress of the task force meetings, and the results of the environmental and engineering studies presented in the EA document; and to discuss the upcoming Public Hearing. (Agenda attached)

2. MEETING SUMMARY

On behalf of the NJDOT, Martine Culbertson welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves as a courtesy to new members and visitors. Martine reviewed the agenda and the handouts, which included a revised list of members, the meeting schedule, and meeting reports from the two CPT task forces to be placed in the CPT Handbooks.

Paul Nowicki then presented the project schedule milestones as follows:

- Circulate Draft EA – mid March
- Public Notice – end of March
- Public Hearing – mid April
- Close Public Comment Period – May
- NJDEP Review Close – June
- Obtain FONSI – July
- Begin Design Development Phase

The draft Environmental Assessment (EA) document will be circulated once the Federal and State agencies have provided their comments. Once the agency review process is completed, the document is circulated to the County and local agencies, organizations and the general public for comment. Copies will be available at City Hall, the library, Middlesex County Planning Department and at key locations requested by the CPT. Paul explained that the goal for the project is to obtain the FONSI in order to move to the next phase in the project for detailed design development.



As part of the process, a formal Public Hearing is held to obtain comments on the project. The Hearing is usually held once the document has been approved by Federal agencies and ready for public review. There is a thirty-day comment period during which time the Public Hearing is held. It will be similar to the Public Information Center meeting where there will be an area of display boards for viewing and asking questions, however in addition formal verbal testimony is obtained and recorded. There will also be an area to provide verbal testimony in private and an area for written comments to be submitted.

Paul then introduced Mike Sheehan to present the results of the Boyd Park Task Force. They conducted two meetings and the recommendations are listed on a handout distributed during his presentation (see attachment). In summary, the City and task members support the enhancements to Boyd Park provided the mitigation steps are provided. Regarding aesthetics in the City Docks area, it would be consistent with the overall corridor aesthetics as developed by the Corridor Aesthetics Task Force. A few questions were raised as follows:

Q – What will happen to the artifacts excavated near the privy in the area of Indian Queen Tavern? Could they be given to the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission?

A – Normally, the NJDOT will coordinate with the NJDEP State Historic Preservation Office. Coordination should be with Carl Nittinger to determine the recipient of the artifacts and if they would go to the State Museum.

Q – Will the concepts for Boyd Park be shown at the Public Hearing?

A – The concepts can be displayed at the Public Hearing for comment.

To discuss the progress of the Corridor Aesthetics Task Force, Paul distributed a handout listing the recommendations discussed at the two meetings held to date (see attachment).

Paul stated that the information generated from the task force could also be displayed at the Public Hearing, but that further work will be done in the next phase of the project to determine the specific elements to be incorporated in the final design. A question was raised during the aesthetics discussion as noted below:

Q – Who is responsible for lighting?

A – The NJDOT is responsible for maintaining lighting on the Route 18 corridor.

The CPT then took a brief break while the Route 18 model was brought in to the conference room. Paul asked members to look over the model and then share their comments, which are transcribed from newsprint as follows:

- The Agnew House needs to be clearly indicated (and noted as relocated-a movable piece)
- The bus stop for NJTRANSIT needs to be indicated.
- The school bus stop at Paulus Boulevard should be shown
- Indicate the two way movement on the ramps with striping so it is clear to observers the number of lanes and direction (two-way vs. one-way)
- Show the placement of where signals will be
- Indicate the crosswalks especially at Commercial and George Streets
- Show the bikeways and pedestrian walk ways
- Show the project limit lines especially around the Route 1 interchange so it's clear what is beyond the scope of this design project (It may be good to mention at the Public Hearing that it is being studied under a separate project)
- Show walls of what can be there, make them removable

- Make removable pedestrian overpasses at the appropriate locations or indicate where they will be
- Make it clear where the deceleration lanes are at Carpender Road and Newell Avenue with white lines
- Use white arrows to indicate the number of lanes throughout the corridor in both directions.

Other comments and questions made:

Q – How will traffic be maintained during construction?

A – The construction will be done in stages so traffic flow will be continuous throughout the construction of the interchanges and roadway.

Q – When will the road be out of commission?

A – The traffic flow and access will be open at all times. Some detours may be used at intersections when necessary. A detailed traffic management plan will be developed during the Final Design phase.

Q – How long will the construction take?

A – The stages and schedule of construction will be determined during the Final Design phase.

Q – Can certain organizations or residences request a copy of the EA document for review?

A – Copies are available upon request.

The City of New Brunswick has requested two copies, the library and Middlesex County Planning Dept. will each have a copy. Rutgers University and Riverside Towers (apartment complex at Commercial Avenue) have requested two copies each. The Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission requested one copy

To close, Martine asked members for comments or action items. Two items were mentioned: the request for updated maps to be distributed with the meeting report and the County should purchase any open space parcels for conservation. The next CPT Meeting No. 14 will be scheduled after the Public Hearing has been conducted and comments reviewed so as to report on the Hearing results. CPT members will be notified by fax and phone calls once a tentative meeting date has been scheduled.

NJDOT thanked the CPT members for their continued support and participation. The CPT members will receive notice of the Public Hearing similar to the Public Information Center notification. Martine noted that the NJDOT would welcome CPT members to assist at the Public Hearing as it was very helpful at the Public Information Center. The meeting was adjourned at noon.

3. ACTION ITEMS

- CPT Members review materials with their constituents and encourage support for the Route 18 improvements at the Public Hearing.
- The City of New Brunswick and County to provide a letter of project support with any issues outstanding to Bill Cochran.
- NJDOT and Gannett Fleming will develop materials including revisions to the model for the Public Hearing.
- Gannett Fleming will provide an updated map of the Route 18 corridor improvements for distribution with the CPT meeting report

3. ACTION ITEMS (continued)

- Martine Culbertson will provide CPT meeting report, assist with CPT materials for the Public Hearing and confirm the next CPT meeting date.

4. NEXT MEETING

Date: To be scheduled after the Public Hearing
Time: 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Location: Middlesex County Planning Conference Room
Elks Building, City of New Brunswick

5. LIST OF ATTENDEES

ATTENDEES:

Members

Morteza Ansari
Julius DeSantis
Linda Hunter
Thomas Loughlin
Glenn Patterson
Todd Smircina
Bob Spear
George Ververides
Frank Wong

Alternates

Michelle Everest
Ed Kozack

Invited Guests

Anna Askenes
Ken Herman
Doug Joyce
Ken Koschek
Linda LaSut
Carl Nittinger
Jim Zullo

Project Support

Youssef Ben-Khayat
Cindy Bloom-Cronin
Dave Byers
Bill Cochran
Pam Garrett
Jay Pandya
Ed Tomaszewski
Paul Nowicki
Mike Morgan
Mike Sheehan
Martine Culbertson

Visitors

Jim Campbell
Frederick Kish
Douglas Petix

REPRESENTING:

Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc.
Riverside Towers
University Mews Homeowners Assoc.
City of New Brunswick, Administration
City of New Brunswick, Planning
Carpender Road Area Neighborhood
Rutgers, The State Univ. of NJ
Middlesex County Planning Dept.
Rutgers, The State Univ. of NJ

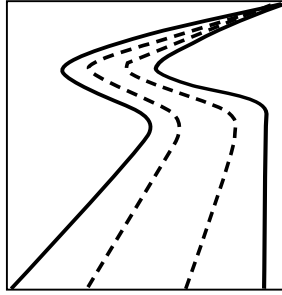
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Rutgers, The State Univ. of NJ

Middlesex Cty. Cultural & Heritage Commission
Borough of Highland Park
Township of East Brunswick
NJDEP, Office of Program Coordination
NJTPA
NJDEP, State Historic Preservation Office
DEVCO

NJDOT, Division of Project Management
NJDOT, Landscape & Urban Design
NJDOT, Landscape & Urban Design
NJDOT, Community Relations
NJDOT, Division of Project Management
NJDOT, Division of Project Management
NJDOT, Noise
Gannett Fleming, Inc.
Gannett Fleming, Inc.
Gannett Fleming, Inc.
M. A. Culbertson, LLC

City of New Brunswick, Parks
NJTA
Dewey Heights Neighborhood

Report prepared by:



ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

CPT MEETING No. 13

AGENDA

March 1, 2001

Objective: To present the Route 18 conceptual model, the progress of the task force meetings, and the results of the environmental and engineering studies presented in the EA document; and to discuss the upcoming Public Hearing.

I. Welcome and Overview

- Agenda and Goals
- CPT Issues Review

II. Project Status and Update

- Route 18 Conceptual Model
- Draft Environmental Assessment and Section 4(f) Documents

III. Task Force Progress

- Boyd Park Task Force for Enhancements in City Docks Area
- Corridor Aesthetics Task Force

IV. Summary and Close

- Project Schedule: Next Step - Public Hearing
- Action Items / Feedback Comments



State of New Jersey Department of Transportation

Division of Project Management