



ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

CPT MEETING NO. 17 MEETING REPORT

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

DATE: April 29, 2005

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ

ATTENDEES: See Attendee List at end of Report

MEETING PURPOSE

To present the project status and new members of the CPT; to provide information on construction staging, traffic management, and communications outreach; and to identify community issues and next steps. (See attached Agenda)

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Martine Culbertson, CPT Facilitator, opened the meeting on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Transportation. She provided a brief overview of the CPT noting the first meeting held in May of 1999. Original CPT members, as well as current and new members were then acknowledged. The Steering Committee and Project Team members were introduced.
2. A new CPT Handbook Volume 3 or CPT Portfolio were distributed to all members. CPT Handbooks are for those members who will be attending task force meetings on traffic management or communications/public information. CPT Portfolios are for those members who require updated project information for sharing with their constituents.
3. There is a new NJDOT Project Manager, John McCleerey. John presented the current status of the project and the transition occurring from Design to Construction. The first stage of construction is anticipated to begin in June. The Contractor is Conti Enterprises and the NJDOT Resident Engineer is Tony Bene. This project now has a Communications Team Leader, Brian Dorf.



4. Darryl Johnson, Deputy Project Manager from Gannett Fleming, presented the project improvements and construction staging. An updated map of the improvements is included in the new CPT Handbooks and Portfolios. The power point presentation is on the web site for review. The information presented on construction staging and traffic management is described in the Traffic Mitigation Plan which is on the project web site under Route 18 Reconstruction New Brunswick by clicking the Community Outreach option on the left margin menu.

5. Brian Dorf, the Communications Team Leader presented information on his experience and role for this project. CPT members will be working with Brian on community issues and sharing of information through out the construction phase. He will reside at the NJDOT field office on site. He is available for project presentations in the area and will assistance in disseminating information to the CPT members and with the assistance of the NJDOT Division of Communications to the general public. He may best be reached by the project email address: Route18@dot.state.nj.us. His cell phone number will be for emergency phone calls and a telephone information line will be established once the field office is set up. Information on the tools and mechanisms for sharing information for both routine traffic access and emergency incidents is described in the Communications Plan which is posted on the project web site (www.njcommuter.com, click Road Construction Updates, click Route 18 Reconstruction New Brunswick) under the Community Outreach option on the left margin menu

6. Martine asked for a volunteer at each table to read out loud the green index cards written by the people at each table to identify the Project Goals - "what would CPT members want to see happen" or have as an objective for this project. The cards were transcribed as an attachment to this report (see Attachment 1).

7. Martine then asked CPT members for topics to discuss over the lunch. The following topics were listed. She asked members to take their lunch to the appropriate table number and complete the following steps:

Topics for Group Discussion

- Traffic Management (1, 2, 3)
- Emergency Incident – Traffic Control (4, 5)
- Communication > public / employer (6, 7)
- Construction related (8, 9)
- Environmental Historic / Cultural (10)
- Aesthetic Treatments (11)
- Other (12/13)

For Each Topic – Steps to Complete during Group Discussion

1. List Issues / Interests → what, why
2. Recommendations / Ideas → thoughts, solutions → related to topic
3. Prioritize / present

8. Each Table provided a brief summary of their group discussion. The following comments were noted on newsprint. The issues written on white index cards by participants at the beginning of the meeting were transcribed as an attachment to this report (see Attachment 2).

GROUP DISCUSSION SUMMARY

- ❖ Emergency Vehicle Access
 - Nights, closures, staging – provisions
 - To yield for ambulances
 - With Limited Space
 - Ambulance Communication
 - Tier 1 to address during each stage of construction
 - Ramp Route 1 South / Route 18
 - 31 – day closure, 24/7 access for EMS
 - Define EMS Access and maintain
 - On-site service for emergency assistance (similar to tow units)
 - Major flooding, to min. flooding (access limitations known)

- ❖ NJDOT / Contractor Communication Coordination
 - Expedition software → coordination, dating, numbering
 - Location of VMS Signs
 - Pre-Stage Briefing
 - Provide map
 - JPEG / PDF files for maps
 - Release general idea of each stage now

- ❖ Vacation Time / Sick → Alternate for Key Stakeholders to maintain representation

- ❖ Kill Dates for notifications

- ❖ Order of Communication: mayor; admin; mass/general
 - Mass Communication Options
 - Standardized agreement
 - From Radio Station → especially for Emergency Notice

- ❖ Compliance to Aesthetic / Landscaping Commitment
 - Material control for Historic Resources – Task Force review

- ❖ Traffic Volume Pre-Stage Briefings
 - Transit Coordination
 - Major Employer Coordination
 - Traffic Circulation / Flow – provide overview
 - To examine traffic flow management
 - Clifton Avenue
 - Ryders Lane
- ❖ Towing Service → On-site during peak
- ❖ VMS Sign Work → meaningful messages, review with CPT
- ❖ Protection of neighborhoods during construction
 - Noise concerns, need for walls, sound protection
 - Timing of Pedestrian Overpass and Closure to Carpenter Road
 - Access in to and out of driveways
 - Noise and construction debris away from neighbors

Issues (Raised During the Meeting)

- ❖ Judicial Coordination – court allow more travel time for jurors
- ❖ Telephone Line
 - For general public – to obtain local info and leave questions
 - Answering machine - leave messages and can respond effectively
 - Necessary for the stakeholders given illiteracy
- ❖ Historic Cultural Review of Compliance – Need Coordination Meeting
- ❖ Health Care Coordination Meeting
- ❖ EMS – volunteer and private coordination
 - Meeting at each stage which has potential impacts to traffic flow
- ❖ Advisory Coordination Meeting
 - Radios / TV / other links for emergency notification
- ❖ Noise Walls
 - Construction timing
- ❖ Hispanic lingual needs → Radio
 - Materials
 - Multiple Mechanism – Target
 - Illiterate
 - Multi-lingual
 - Techno
- ❖ Utility Companies → Work coordination and communication with public

9. In summary, Steve Lavelle noted that the information obtained today would be reviewed and the next step will be for a Steering Committee meeting to coordinate upcoming project action items and meetings. The CPT will receive notices for the Pre-Stage briefings, which will be scheduled tentatively two-three weeks prior to the change in the construction activity. Given the estimated starting of construction in June, it is anticipated that notices will be sent at some time in May for the first Pre-Stage briefing. The meeting report and attachments will be posted on the project web site.

10. Steve Lavelle thanked everyone for their participation and support. He emphasized use of the Communications Team Leader, Brian Dorf to coordinate information. CPT will be notified once the field office has been established. In the meantime, the best way to share information is the project email address and web site. The web site address and the email address are in the CPT Handbook and Portfolio as well as listed on the yellow highlighter pens distributed at the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

NEXT CPT MEETING - Pre-Stage Briefing

Time: 10:00 am - Noon
Date: May (tentative)
Location: City of New Brunswick

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

LIST OF ATTENDEES

Name		Representing	Phone
Rick	Hammer	NJDOT, Div. of Project Mgmt.	609-530-2191
Stephen	Lavelle	NJDOT, Div. of Project Mgmt.	609-530-2546
John	McCleerey	NJDOT, Div. of Project Mgmt.	609-530-2466
Tony	Bene	NJDOT, Construction	732-308-4073
Steve	Mikulak	NJDOT, Community Relations	609-530-6558
Pamela	Garrett	NJDOT, Div. of Env. Resources	609-530-2721
Frank	Wong	Rutgers, Physical/Capital Planning	732-445-2430 X604
Brian K.	Dorf	GPI	732-303-5990 X22
Martine	Culbertson	M. A. Culbertson, LLC	856-795-8485
Morteza	Ansari	Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc.	732-745-2326
Richard	Bello	NJ State Police, Construction Unit	609-882-2000
Bob	Belvin	New Brunswick Historical Assoc.	732-745-5108 X8
Joe	Bernasz	UMDNJ	732-235-6212
Tim	Bourne	NJDOT, Traffic Ops North	201-797-8397
Bill	Bray	City of New Brunswick	732-745-5004
Trish	Broderick	Conti Enterprises, Inc.	908-561-8000
Michele	Cade	Matrix Development Group	732-521-2900
Douglas	Campbell	Robert Wood Johnson Univ. Hosp.	732-937-8644
Jim	Campbell	New Brunswick Parks Dept.	732-745-5112
Tabiri	Chukunta	St. Peter's University Hospital	732-745-8596
Tom	Cowan	TRANSCOM	201-963-4033
Larry	Daniels	Hyatt	732-867-2245
Ramiro	Daza	New Brunswick Board of Ed	732-745-5300
Patrick	English	Borough of Highland Park	732-572-3800
Gary T.	Etter	GPI	908-236-9001
John	Ferguson	Office of Emergency Management	732-316-7104
Wayne	Fiorino	Middlesex Co. Court House	732-981-2172
Steven	Fittante	Middlesex Co. Dept. of Trans.	732-745-4029
Connor	Fox	New Brunswick Development Corp	732-839-4446
Frank	Gallo	GPI	908-236-9001
Tony	Gambilonghi	Middlesex County Planning Dept.	732-745-3843
Lisa	Ginther	MBI Gluckshaw	609-392-1080
Elkins	Green	NJDOT, Environmental	609-530-3007
Brenda	Hammer	NJDOT, Landscape/Urban Design	609-530-5673
Steve	Hardegen	NJDEP, State Historic Preservation	609-984-0141
Mark	Hauske	NJDOT, Value Engineering	609-530-5278
Linda	Hunter	University Mews Condo Assoc.	732-249-7730
Darryl	Johnson	Gannett Fleming	908-755-0040
Douglas	Joyce	Township of East Brunswick	732-390-6870
Thomas	Kelso	Dewey Heights Neighborhood	732-246-4501
Bill	Koeppe	Conti Enterprises, Inc.	908-561-8000
Larry	Kolodziej	Middlesex County Engineering	732-745-3283
R. Jeffrey	Lanigan	MBI GluckShaw	609-392-1080
Marie	Latimer	Raritan Gardens	732-247-0600
Mark	Liebes	Conti Enterprises, Inc.	908-561-8000
Dave	Martella	New Brunswick Police Dept.	732-745-5165
Margaret	Marshall	RWJUJH	609-584-5922
Paul	Matacera	MBI-GluckShaw	609-392-1080
Brian	McMahon	UMDNJ	973-972-1506
Jack	Molenaar	Rutgers, Planning & Development	732-445-2430 X650

Tom	Napolitano	GPI	908-236-9001
Mark	Pereira	Conti Enterprises	908-561-8000
Vince	Pomparelli	Johnson & Johnson	732-524-6320
Clifford	Price, P.E.	NJ Turnpike Authority	732-247-0900
Sharad	Rana	NJDOT, Div. of Project Mgmt.	609-530-2196
Joanne	Schutz	NJDOT, Construction	732-828-1093
Charles	Scott	NJDEP, State Historic Preservation	609-633-2396
Scott	Shields	Bristol-Meyers-Squibb	609-252-7203
Todd	Smircina	Carpender Road Neighborhood	732-545-5771
Jim	Stapleton	Rutgers, Campus Info. Services	732-932-9342 X2608
Lee	Steiner	NJDOT, Work Zone Traffic	732-409-3260
Dhanji	Sutariya	NJDOT, Work Zone Traffic	732-308-4119
Paul	Thomas	NJDOT, Freight & Intermodal	609-530-8039
Priscilla	Ukpah	NJDOT, Freight & Intermodal	609-530-5157
Larry	Vogel	NJDOT, Div. of Project Mgmt.	609-530-5529
Sean	Vroom	NJTPA	973-639-8435
Keith	Vuono	UMDNJ	973-972-7551
Bob	Werkmeister	NJDOT – Local Aid	732-308-4002
Timothy	White	City of New Brunswick	732-745-5056
Jim	Wilno	NJ TRANSIT	856-968-3827
Greg	Wright	Academy Bus Co.	201-725-5612
Steven	Zarecki	City of New Brunswick	732-745-5104
Tom	Zink	Gannett Fleming	609-561-4800

CPT MEETING No. 17

AGENDA

April 29, 2005

Hyatt Regency Hotel, City of New Brunswick, 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Objective: To present the project status and new members of the CPT; to provide information on construction staging, traffic management, and communications outreach; and to identify community issues and next steps.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Agenda and Goals
- CPT Overview
- Steering Committee

II. Route 18 Reconstruction

- Project Status
- Project Overview
- Construction Staging
- Traffic Management
- Communications Outreach

III. CPT Discussions

- Identify Issues and Ideas
- Breakout Group Discussions - Lunch
- Group Results, Recommendations

IV. Summary and Close

- Project Schedule – Next Steps
- Action Items /Feedback
- Closing Comments

**CPT MEETING NO. 17 REPORT
ATTACHMENT NO. 1**

ROUTE 18 - PROJECT GOALS

(Green Index Cards)

- Get project built timely and safely
- Complete on time
- Project completed with minimal disruptions to Rutgers bus system
- Stunningly designed project that will become the industry standard for road projects
- Each phase to be completed before or on schedule
- Minimal noise during construction
- Minimal dust and debris
- Repave Carpende Rd. and add curbing to minimize damage to lawns
- My goal is to live long enough to appreciate the noise barrier wall and this project
- Finished to perfection—having back our “quality of life” again
- Maintain the project’s aesthetic designs as shown in the plans when pressures mount from the contractor
- Maintain quality of materials and design intent throughout the entire project
- Improved traffic flow with minimal impact on community
- To reduce congestion in order to further future growth
- Complete project within the anticipated construction duration
- To provide an easier and quicker commute for J & J employees working at the corporate HQ in New Brunswick
- Construct project with minimal disruption to the community
- Preserve historic Thomas Agnew House and property
- Construct project in full compliance of all environmental commitments
- To understand the impact of the project on hospitals and to be able to manage those impacts
- New information to give to the bus drivers to help run service at Rutgers University
- Any new transportation tips
- Keep impact on commuter to a minimum during rush hours
- Complete the project in a timely manner
- To complete this project safely with the least amount of inconvenience to the residents and motoring public
- Enforce speed limits
- Identify problem early
- Safety priority No. 1
- Improved traffic flow and sufficient pass through for responding emergency vehicles
- Work zone safety for workers and public
- On schedule, within budget and with minimal impact to the region
- Construction completed on time or early
- Minimal negative impact
- Improvement to quality of life for stakeholders
- Keep focus on people
- Minimize impacts on motoring public
- Communicate...communicate...communicate
- High quality, smooth, efficient construction of this most significant regional project with continued strong, effective communication and parking with the public

stakeholders

- A project built with budget and ahead of schedule
- Complete project on time and within budget and safely
- Complete scope on time
- Completion ahead of schedule
- Minimize impact on patients, students and staff of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
- Increased safety through improved visibility and reduced congestion
- Reliable and effective communication between the contractor, NJDOT, Rutgers and the community
- Construction of project's various stages to maintain vehicle access and EMS to and from two hospitals
- Contact and coordination for construction projects in New Brunswick to facilitate movement of equipment and materials
- Provide significant relief to eliminate congestion of RT. 18 through New Brunswick
- Implement long-term traffic mitigation measures
- Implement alternative travel options
- Maintain communication to owner in order to provide needed updates to building occupants at 303 and 317 George Street (per Michele Cade, Matrix Dev. Corp.)
- Signage for UMDNJ facilities besides just Rutgers
- Effective communication between contractor/NJDOT/Gannett Fleming/City of New Brunswick...to facilitate project transition
- To see better access and egress from Newell and Phelps Avenues, possibly a traffic light? Or whole new design for these intersections (streets)
- Continuous communication between all parties involved in the project
- During construction phase, awareness of city concerns and adjustments made in the schedules to reflect their concerns
- Project completed on time and on or under budget
- Expedition in general phase, noise barriers and upcoming design
- No \$ overruns
- To complete this project safely with no accidents or injuries

**CPT MEETING NO. 17 REPORT
ATTACHMENT NO. 2**

ROUTE 18 - COMMUNITY ISSUES

(White Index Cards)

- Provide adequate and safe lighting at Albany St. underpass for pedestrians
- Implement traffic mitigation measure as soon as possible
- UMDNJ is separate from Rutgers: need signage to identify UMDNJ facilities as they have in excess of 1,000 patients per day
- Matrix parking lot 303 and 317 George Street – access with all operational controls to parking lot are located at the entrance off of New St. – access off of New Street must be available 24/7 or other arrangements must be made – call Michele Cade on her cell 609-529-6880
- Scheduling for Newell/Phelps work – why has this work been put off until Phase 5? It seems to me that this could be completed much earlier. Newell/Phelps could attach to RT18 in its current position and the movement of RT18 lanes could happen later with the George St. bridge construction. Please contact Paul Morrissett
- Will the cul-de-sac be completed on Carpendar Rd. before the road is closed on south entrance; if not, traffic will use people's driveways (and lawns)
- Will the road be signed at entrance that it is not a through road?
- During construction of 18 near Carpendar/Phelps/Newell – how will vehicles involved in traffic accidents be moved off the highway – currently the police direct them onto Carpendar, Phelps or Newell, thus blocking access/egress on these streets when they become one-way, this could be a problem
- Don't want the caged fencing atop the new overpasses – it is ugly everywhere, including the new one in Piscataway at River Rd.
- Need a phone number to give to our neighbors to call if they have questions during project, not everyone has access to www.
- Access to bus stops during construction in Phelps/Carpendar neighborhoods
- Traffic control to maintain contractor's work zone and motorist's access during peak hours
- EMS access 24/7 to and from two hospitals – MICU needs to respond from hospital to various locations
- RT27 bridge closure weekend
- Traffic flow during lane closings
- Carbon monoxide from car exhaust bad for health need for barriers (wall) a health must
- If neighborhood/homeowners walls are removed for construction, we insist on a permanent wall to replace it. Temporary chain link fences with privacy slats are not acceptable to insure safety of our properties, including our pets and children – for anything but a very temporary interim use. We do not accept a temporary replacement fence for the duration of the 4-year construction.
- KMM is the NJDOT Transportation Management Association (TMA) for Middlesex County. It does not seem that they are playing a big role in the traffic mitigation effort of this project considering their funding level.
- Is it a good idea to be talking about incentives NJDOT is going to pay the consultant

in a public forum during an election year?

- Who is the NJDOT traffic mitigation advocate, and is he associated with this project?
- Timing of the noise barrier – I hope it will be first on the agenda – I have a young dog and my neighbor has two small children
- Neighborhood barrier wall needs to be constructed prior to start of project
- Would like to see privacy/sound wall to run from Carpender to Paulus Blvd.
- Communication flow in a timely manner
- When SB1 ramps are closed (for 31 days), how will motorists get to NJ Turnpike?
- Work zone and traffic safety
- Keep safety and mobility of vehicles around work zone
- If stage 2 includes construction of pedestrian overpass at Carpender Rd. and closure of SB entrance, when does the wall between Paulus to Carpender and to George Street get constructed?
- Damage to homes due to vibration
- Noise – need the sound barriers early
- Knowing who to call if we have problems
- Proposed Stage 1 construction affects historic Agnew house - needs early consultation regarding permit conditions
- What is the impact of the construction on the Clifton Avenue intersection?
- Any clarification or interpretation of environmental plan sheets, permit conditions and/or site conditions uncovered during construction that are environmental in nature must/shall be coordinated through Resident Engineer to the NJDOT Division of Environmental Resource appropriate or assigned staff, i.e. Pamela Garrett, Amy Polachak PRIOR TO TAKING ANY ACTION!!! in one field
- Insure full compliance with environmental approvals and permits
- If there are incentives for contractor to finish earlier, will they be fined for lateness?
- Proactive communications, NJDOT approved process, safety
- Environmental compliance
- Traffic impacts to the local roads during detours
- The aesthetic vision developed during the design process will be compromised for one reason or another
- Utility company partnership
- Rutgers and NJ Transit bus moves
- What is contractor work schedule?
- Issue resolution
- 27 weekend outings
- Pedestrian moves throughout the project
- Traffic – particularly during inclement weather
- Newell/Phelps aesthetics – the berm around the retention basin near Newell Avenue should be a BERM WITH A WALL as originally decided by the CPT process.

Also, we want to maintain as many trees as possible. Can we have an analysis of whether some trees could be saved by variations of berm and wall placements, in particular, near the Newell Avenue retention basin and between the two closest houses between Newell and Phelps – contact Paul Morrisett

- Provide adequate and safe lighting at Albany St. overpass for pedestrians
- Implement traffic mitigation measures as soon as possible