

ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

**COMMUNITY PARTNERING TEAM
MEETING NO. 5 REPORT**

September 20, 1999

DATE: September 14, 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
Linda Hunter
Tom Kelso
Rick Lloyd
Glenn Patterson
Todd Smircina
Frank Wong
Jim Zullo
Alternates
Brain Deegan
Helen Erdey
Tony Gambilonghi
Vincent Martino
Paul Morrissett

REPRESENTING:

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

City of New Brunswick, Engineering
Carpender Road Area Neighborhood
Middlesex County Planning Dept.
Middlesex County Engineering
Newell Avenue Area Neighborhood

Invited Guests

Anna Aschkenes
James Baisley
Sarah Clarke
John Donnelly
Michael Heenehan
Sgt. Ken Herman
Doug Joyce
Ken Koschek
Linda LaSut
Carl Nittinger

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



Steering Committee

Bill Birch	NJDOT, Division of Project Management
Mike Morgan	Gannett Fleming
Paul Nowicki	Gannett Fleming
Martine Culbertson	M. A. Culbertson

Visitors

Bob Abitz	NJDOT, Value Engineering
Chris Barretts	NJDOT, Traffic Signals
Doug Fadool	NJDOT, Value Engineering
Rick Jaffe	NJDOT, Value Engineering
Jay Pandya	NJDOT, Environmental Services
Glenn Stevens	Gannett Fleming
Al Tavares	NJDOT, Bureau of Mobility Strategies
Ed Tomaszewski	NJDOT, Environmental Services

1. PURPOSE OF MEETING

To present the value engineering process; to establish CPT consensus on IPA concepts such as the collector distributor roadway, Route 27 interchange, and Paulus Boulevard intersection; and to continue group discussions on the outstanding issues of the IPA. (Agenda attached)

2. MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting began with introductions. Martine announced three new members to the CPT: Mr. Jim Zullo, Executive Director of New Brunswick Parking Authority, Mr. Chris Johnson, Site Manager of Riverside Towers and Ms. Awilda Perez, Site Manager of New Brunswick Apartments. She then presented the CPT update indicating changes to the lists and the meeting schedule. Each member was asked to circle on yellow sheets the handouts missing from their CPT Handbooks. The missing pages will be distributed at the next meeting.

Rick Jaffe from NJDOT presented the concept of Value Engineering. It is a function based method of analysis which the NJDOT performs on engineering designs to determine what is the function of specific elements of the design, what is the cost, and what alternative can do such a function for less cost. It is a team effort within the NJDOT to look at the design and determine if all options have been considered.

Paul Nowicki briefly provided an overview of the concepts for each area of the IPA. He then presented the Route 27 interchange area issues and concepts to resolve the issues. A handout was distributed, entitled, CPT Summary of Issues and Proposed Resolution for Route 27 Area. The matrix contained a blank area for comments developed during CPT consensus discussions.

Mike Morgan then present a simulation of the traffic flow in the Route 27 area with the proposed concepts. The following issues and concerns were mentioned:

- A concern for the merge point for those headed from Route 18 northbound and Route 27 northbound toward Highland Park. There is a weaving issue with this traffic. It was suggested that signage may help traffic flow and to indicate left the turn lane at River Road.

- A concern was raised that the slip ramp as a quick entrance to Route 18 may attract more traffic and cause congestion to spill back to the Johnson & Johnson entrance area.
- Richmond Street closure could adversely affect the development of a parking lot area. Residents in the area like the closure because it may improve quality of life in the area.
- A question raised about the location of the Burnett Street ramp from Route 18 southbound. After some discussion the location appeared to be acceptable.
- Concern for the numbers of vehicles and the CORSIM model operations in the area of the Route 27 interchange for the forecasted year. Gannett will recheck the figures and will add the Route 27 River Road signal to the model, then examine a merge.
- A concern for conflict between bicycles and vehicles was mentioned. At the Devonshire Apartments near Johnson Park beyond the river, bikes must cross a roadway where cars are exiting. That area was determined to be beyond the scope of this project, however as a county road the concern should be addressed by the county. Perhaps striping the bikeway could help. It was noted that the bikeway design on this project should take into consideration minimizing those type of conflicts if possible.
- A question was raised if accident data is in the simulation. The response was that the model can provide traffic flow during an accident if needed, however it's not needed to show the design concepts.

The CPT took a five minute break and then proceeded to divide into three groups (1,2,3) to discuss the Route 27 interchange area and see if the resolutions suggested are acceptable or if further work needs to be done to address the issues. After twenty minutes, each group presented their results which were recorded in their group and charted on newsprint. A summary of the information will be distributed at the next meeting. Please send any additional comments on the issues for Route 27 to Gannett Fleming prior to the next meeting.

Paul Nowicki gave a brief overview of the issues in the Paulus Boulevard area. A handout entitled, CPT Summary of Issues and Proposed Resolution for Paulus Boulevard Area, was distributed. The matrix contains a blank area for comments developed during CPT consensus discussions. The CPT then broke into three groups (A, B, C) to discuss the issues and determine if the resolution for each issue was acceptable or if further discussion or study was needed to develop consensus. A very brief summary of each group's discussion was given.

Concerns were raised regarding the summarized outcomes from these discussions and if this information and new suggestions raised were final. It was agreed that many of the issues for Paulus Boulevard require more dialogue in order to develop consensus. The CPT needs more time to discuss the issues presented briefly by each group.

The CPT agreed to meet in two weeks on Tuesday, September 28, 1999 in order to discuss the refinements and concepts in more detail for Paulus Boulevard. The meeting will be at the same location and time 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Martine then asked each member for action items for the next meeting or feedback: more discussion on Paulus Boulevard prior to going to the public, commenting on areas as the entire team, move to the full group to get consensus, not enough dialogue in the big group so keep the small groups too, we are progressing, small groups can discuss and share more ideas, must look more carefully at the four access points southbound on Route 18 around Paulus Boulevard, effect on neighborhood of the pedestrian overpass, unresolved issue of Dewey Heights access points, progressing so keep small groups and balance with large group, need to look at Agnew house and cultural impacts, balance small and large group discussions, request enlarged map of each intersection of the IPA with concepts, careful to allow stakeholders more discussion time to look at solutions prior to technical input, appreciate valuable input by CPT members, examine weave of Route 18 and Route 27 and Dewey Heights access.

In closing, Paul thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

3. ACTION ITEMS

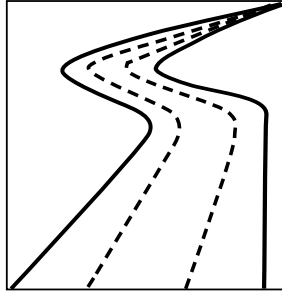
- Members and Guests review both Route 27 and Paulus Boulevard handouts on issues and proposed resolutions with your constituents. Provide any comments to Mike Morgan at Gannett Fleming or bring them to the next meeting. CPT issues or comments, please contact Martine Culbertson.
- Gannett Fleming will summarize CPT comments from each group, develop maps and materials for next 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.

4. NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday, September 28, 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



ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

**CPT MEETING No. 5
AGENDA**

September 14, 1999

Objective: To present value engineering process; to establish CPT consensus on IPA concepts such as the collector distributor roadway, Route 27 interchange, and Paulus Boulevard intersection; and to continue group discussions on the outstanding issues of the IPA.

I. Introductions and Review

- Agenda and CPT Update
- Value Engineering

II. Establish CPT Consensus

- Route 27 Interchange: Operation and Access
- Paulus Boulevard Intersection: Turns and Access

Break

III. IPA Concepts/Refinements Discussion

- Breakout Groups
- Summarize Results

IV. Summary and Close

- Project Schedule and Action Items
- Feedback Evaluation and Closing Comments



State of New Jersey Department of Transportation

Division of Project Management