

ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS
**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**
CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT NO. 21

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

DATE: March 23, 2006

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

ATTENDEES

First Name	Last Name	Representing	Phone	Email
Tony	Bene	NJDOT, Construction	732-729-7853	anthony.bene@dot.state.nj.us
Martine	Culbertson	M. A. Culbertson, LLC	856-795-8485	maculbertson@verizon.net
Lisa	Ginther	MBI-Gluckshaw	609-392-3100	lginther@mbigluckshaw.com
Darryl	Johnson	Gannett Fleming	212-967-9833	djohnson@gfnet.com
Larry	Kolodziej	Middlesex County Eng.	732-745-3283	
Jeff	Lanigan	MBI-Gluckshaw	609-392-1080	jlanigan@mbigluckshaw.com
Stephen	Lavelle	NJDOT, Div. Proj. Mgmt.	609-530-2546	steve.lavelle@dot.state.nj.us
Thomas	Loughlin	City of New Brunswick	732-745-5007	tloughlin@cityofnewbrunswick.org
John	McCleerey	NJDOT, Div. Proj. Mgmt.	609-530-2466	john.mccleerey@dot.state.nj.us
Steve	Mikulak	NJDOT, Comm. Relations	609-530-6558	stephen.mikulak@dot.state.nj.us
Paul	Nowicki	Gannett Fleming	908-755-0040	pnowicki@gfnet.com
Frank	Wong	Rutgers, Capital Planning	732-445-2430 x 604	fawong@rci.rutgers.edu
Michael	Prudente	Conti Enterprises	908-347-8112	mprudente@conticorp.com
George	Ververides	Middlesex County Eng.	732-745-3013	
Jenn	Lane	Rutgers University	732-445-2430 x 650	jlane@facilities.rutgers.edu
Amy	Polachak	NJDOT, Environmental	609-530-5353	amy.polachak@dot.state.nj.us

MEETING PURPOSE

To review project status and schedule, discuss proposed design modifications, jurisdictional agreements, environmental coordination and the New Street interchange closure.
(Agenda attached).



POINTS OF DISCUSSION

1. Steve Lavelle opened the meeting requesting the date for the New Street closure. Tony Bene provided the update on construction activity and noted the date of April 10th for the closure of the New Street interchange.
2. Mike Prudente, Conti Project Manager, provided the following information regarding construction activity in preparation for the closure of New Street interchange:
 - (a) Signal at Commercial and Neilsen to be operational with aluminum poles (later to be replaced with steel poles - not available to meet timeframe for closure)
 - (b) Left at George Street to Commercial
 - (c) Phelps Avenue extension to be paved
 - (d) Paving to widen New Street for southbound and traffic on Burnett
3. Mike and Tony then presented the traffic staging:
 - (a) Wednesday night - southbound traffic shift
 - (b) Thursday night - double left at Commercial
 - (c) Friday night - barrier to shift northbound
 - (d) Monday April 10th - close interchange and start demolition
4. The J&J Shareholders Meeting is scheduled for April 27th. To wait until after that date to close the interchange would cause too much of a delay and impact to the construction schedule.
5. A comment was raised to consider the need for police assistance at the double left at Commercial on March 31st for the week prior to the closure. The double left will be in place with signage in advance so motorists will have time to adjust. Police would assist if an incident should occur, but traffic should flow and turn with the signal operation.
6. Recommend that Brian Dorf issue a separate Traffic Advisory only on the preparation and closure of New Street interchange announcing on or about April 10th. ACTION ITEM
7. Regarding the way finding signage: John McCleerey received the information from the City's consultant and the information is under review at NJDOT. John noted that there are a large number of signs. The locations and size of signs are in question, and the cost of the signage may dictate how many may be produced or available during construction. Coordination with Rutgers and the City needed. A meeting is to be scheduled by Gannett Fleming and NJDOT to review way-finding signs and determine the signs most critical for use during the New Street closure, placement, size, and party responsible for costs. ACTION ITEM
8. Prior to the New Street closure, the Albany Street signal will be fully improved. City noted the interest in having the ramps on the City side open as soon as possible at New Street. Mike Prudente responded that those will open sooner than the full interchange (bridge) open, however the timing is due to other construction activity factors that may limit it's opening (utility, walls, paving).

9. A comment was made regarding roadway condition and evaluation of pavement on the detour routes. Tony Bene suggested possible re-striping of Neilsen from 27 to New Street so the lane indication is clear. John McCleerey will review detour routes and signage with NJDOT Maintenance in coordination with Tony. ACTION ITEM

10. City noted that signage or message indicating for Theatre traffic to exit on Albany in to the go by the parking lots be considered. ACTION ITEM

11. Darryl Johnson, Gannett Fleming, presented the status of the temporary and permanent condition for the George Street and Ryders lane intersection. Currently NJDOT is evaluating a compact roundabout. A question was raised as to why a signal is not put there. In the evaluation it is not warranted. The left turn is the concern with traffic. The signal at Gibbons and Ryder will be coordinated with the George signal. In the permanent condition, buses are okay but large trucks are an issue. George is signed at State 172 highway. The permanent condition would involve an increased cost of an estimated 500-700 thousand dollars, which requires a request for capital funding. Steve Lavelle directed Gannett Fleming to meet with Chris Barretts in determining the temporary improvement involving stripping and a mini round to assist in the traffic flow during the New Street interchange closure. ACTION ITEM

12. Dirt, which is either in the form of dust or mud (depending on rain), is a community issue from the construction activity. There are sweepers constantly in the neighborhoods and contractor is trying to limit their trucks on the local roads for material transport. City noted many comments from residents regarding the dirt in driveways and on cars. Conti may be back in the neighborhoods when working on landscaping. City asked if NJDOT could request permission from DEP to hose down streets, which are brown (from build-up, not due to lack of effort). ACTION ITEM

13. Overall level of satisfaction in communication regarding community issues during construction is "very good".

14. Tony Bene provided the status of the mock-up reviews. Conti is supplying specs and the determination of the final staining color to be an agenda item at next meeting. Charlie Fresolone, Conti engineer is coordinating those meetings. Anna Ashkenes, Director of the Middlesex County Historical Commission recently inquired as to the status of the mock-ups. Her contact information should be given to Charlie to coordinate with her office on the review meeting dates. ACTION ITEM

15. A question was raised regarding the application of "anti-graffiti" material treatment to the walls as part of the final stain process. It is currently not under consideration given the 4 coats of stain to be applied to obtain the appearance as developed in the design.

16. A question was raised regarding any work to be done near the Rutgers music building. PSE&G must move wires at grade prior to any activity of drilling. Tony Bene added that Verizon might be doing work in that area as well. For the noise wall in that area, there are 19 piles to be driven. It is estimated that the work will be done in 2 months. The school closing is May 17th. Rutgers will resend critical dates of special events to Brian Dorf. ACTION ITEM

17. Steve Lavelle questioned if Johnson and Johnson communication is acceptable. Tony noted that they are working with Vince Pomparelli from J&J. Coordination is on-going and fine.

18. Regarding the status of the jurisdictional agreements. John McCleerey noted that the written documents have been sent by NJDOT. All parties should have the current maps. County questioned the definition of routine structural maintenance to mean structural integrity verses routine maintenance indicating trash and snow removal. Other issues, which may be amended to the agreements, are the proposed roundabout and possible changes to the Rutgers boat house area. The next meeting to discuss the jurisdictional agreements will be scheduled within the first two weeks of May. ACTION ITEM

19. The Rutgers boathouse extension to expand the facility into the City Docks area has been developed by a consultant under the direction of Rutgers. Frank Wong noted that within a week or so, they would meet with the Environmental Team to discuss the Green Acres impact. The City and Rutgers are coordinating the effort. Results should be provided to John McCleerey. ACTION ITEM

20. Antilles Field Wall agreement has been signed only by NJDOT. It needed a supplemental sheet and is now at FHWA for review and signature. Rutgers must sign and a grant is needed. ACTION ITEM

21. Traffic signal agreements must be signed prior to completion of the project. John McCleerey to meet with Tim Swedo to review. ACTION ITEM

22. The Agnew House is now in the condemnation process where NJDOT is looking to purchase the property and once acquired make a determination as to relocation if structurally feasible. Pam Garrett will continue coordination with Bob Cunningham. ACTION ITEM

23. Given that NJDOT is taking jurisdiction of the Paulus Boulevard and the turnaround, parking is not allowed as a State roadway. NJDOT asked the City if they require official notice. Tom Loughlin will check with Council. If a City ordinance must be amended, a description and map with formal notice should be sent to Tom Loughlin. There is signage now indicating no parking. The enforcement of non-parking and towing needs to be determined. City to coordinate with John McCleerey. ACTION ITEM

24. Regarding u-turns in the corridor. Paulus is signed as a No Outlet. U-turns are to be at George Street in future condition and currently to encourage motorists, signage on Route 1 southbound to use Ryders Lane. This signage request has been sent to NJDOT Maintenance. Trucks are to go to Ryders Lane officially. Trucks should be prohibited from using Paulus Boulevard. Gannett Fleming to provide signage for both No U-Turn and No Trucks for the permanent condition at Paulus Boulevard. ACTION ITEM

25. The access to Boyd Park (near former police station site) has now been determined near New Street, not near Albany (better less volume) and resolved. The site plan is approved for just north of the proposed Richmond Street pedestrian overpass. The pedestrian overpass is now approved and to be funded. Gannett Fleming to incorporate site plan into design for construction. ACTION ITEM

26. There are issues regarding the fabrication of the wall panels for the bridges to provide arch-like appearance. Due to design restrictions, the curtain panels on Albany, Commercial, New Street and George Street must be altered since in the fabrication of the shop drawings it was determined that the fit and look of the joints would not reach the original intent of the aesthetic treatment. Lower maintenance cost and long-term preservation of appearance were analyzed. It has been determined that the curtain panels should be removed from the design and to paint the exposed girders black/brown color consistent with the other aesthetic treatments. Parapit detail will remain. City requested that revised renderings to be developed. Steve Lavelle directed Gannett Fleming to have Vollmer develop new renderings based upon this change. The new renderings should be distributed to Steering Committee and CPT to inform them of this change in appearance. This change should provide an improved long-term appearance and more in line with the aesthetic intent. ACTION ITEM

27. Keep Middlesex Moving (KMM) attended the previous City Market meeting to provide information on congestion relief. A number of initiatives are offered through KMM as the lead agency responsible for travel demand management. NJDOT is on the agenda for the next meeting to be held April 19th. Follow-up with City Market needed to decide who would attend that meeting to be determined. ACTION ITEM

28. John McCleerey note the signage issue with Tov Manor has been resolved. Temporary signage will be posted and Tov Manor will participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program with a permanent Adopt-A-Highway sign. A plan to be developed for landscaping, which is under the coordination with David Earl, NJDOT Landscaping. ACTION ITEM

29. City encouraged Brian Dorf to reach out to the other neighbors adjacent (Marie Speaks and Kathy Springer) to inform them of the Tov Manor sign and the type of landscaping to be developed. ACTION ITEM

30. In summary, Steve Lavelle thanked everyone for their input and emphasized the need to continue to maintain communication and address the items, which require change of plans. John noted that the adjustments are in the current change of plan including the curtain panel issue, which needed resolution since New Street is soon to be replaced. Gannett to provide information on the roundabout and signage items. Meeting adjourned at noon.

KEY ACTION ITEMS

Tom Louglin (City of New Brunswick)

- Items No. 7, 18, 19, 23

Frank Wong (Rutgers)

- Items No. 7, 16, 18, 19, 20

Larry Kolodziej/George Ververides (Middlesex County)

- Items No. 18

John McCleerey (Project Management)

- Items No. 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29

Tony Bene (Resident Engineer)

- Item No. 9, 10, 12, 21

Pam Garrett (Project Management-Environmental Services)

- Items No. 12, 14, 20, 22, 26

Darryl Johnson (Gannett Fleming)

- Item No. 7, 11, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26

Brian Dorf (NJDOT Communications Team Leader)

- Item No. 6, 14, 16, 27, 29

Martine Culbertson (CPT Facilitation)

- Items No. 14, 18, 26, 27

NEXT MEETING - Jurisdictional Agreements Meeting

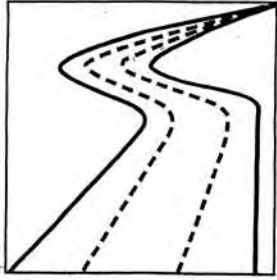
Date: early May, 2006

Time: 10:00 am - Noon

Location: Middlesex Planning Conference Room, Elks Bldg., 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
RT18 CPT Facilitator



ROUTE 18

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

COMMUNITY PARTNERING TEAM

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 21

AGENDA

Thursday, March 23, 2006

*Middlesex County Planning Conference Room, Elks Building, New Brunswick, NJ
10:00 a.m. – Noon*

Objective: To review project status and schedule, discuss proposed design modifications, jurisdictional agreements, environmental coordination and the New Street interchange closure.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Project Status and Schedule
 - Contractor Activities (sewer main)
 - Communications

II. Project Items

- Jurisdictional Agreements Status
- Conti Evaluation Partnering Issues
- Design Modifications
 - Proposed Roundabouts, Ryders Lane
 - Parking and Paulus Boulevard, Truck Turns
 - Tov Manor, sign issue
 - Bridge Structures-Fabrication of Curtain Panels
 - Richmond Street Pedestrian Overpass
 - Site Plan for Boyd Park access near Field Office
 - Rutgers Boathouse Extension
- Environmental Coordination
 - Antilles Field
 - Agnew House
 - Mock-ups, Env. Control Team
- New Street Closure
 - Way Finding Signage
 - Left turn Restrictions
 - KMM and City Market Meeting

III. Summary and Close

- Action Items / Next Steps

