

ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT NO. 9

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

PLACE: Council Chambers, City Hall
City of New Brunswick, NJ

DATE: March 7, 2003

SUBJECT: Steering Committee Meeting No. 9

ATTENDEES:

Mr. Steve Lavelle (SL)	New Jersey Department of Transportation	609-530-3762
Mr. Bill Birch (BB)	New Jersey Department of Transportation	609-530-3003
Ms. Luciana Costa Toller (LC)	New Jersey Department of Transportation	609-530-8244
Mr. Stephen Mikulak (SM)	New Jersey Department of Transportation	609-530-6558
Mr. Thomas Loughlin (TL)	City of New Brunswick	732-745-5007
Mr. Paul Nowicki (PN)	Gannett Fleming, Inc.	908-755-0040
Mr. Darryl Johnson (DJ)	Gannett Fleming, Inc.	908-755-0040
Mr. Jeff Grob (JG)	Vollmer Associates	212-366-5600
Mr. Fred Correale (FC)	Vollmer Associates	212-366-5600
Ms. Martine Culbertson (MC)	M.A. Culbertson, LLC	856-795-8485

SUMMARY:

To provide project status and schedule, review design modifications; discuss outstanding issues and recommendations; and determine next steps for the CPT (agenda attached).



POINTS OF DISCUSSION:

1. (SL) opened meeting with the project status review. The following items noted:
 - (a) Roadway plans - submission of preliminary design 3/14/03, profiles ready for review, project design 70 % complete.
 - (b) Structures - preliminary design progressing - 40 % complete.
 - (c) Drainage - on schedule with roadway plans, met with SME and coordination with DEP on water quality issues, drainage report in April.
 - (d) Utilities - cable vision company agreement ready to go, reviewed by (BB)
 - (e) Traffic - Traffic Impact Report given to Lee Steiner.
 - (f) Elec./ITS - preliminary design complete.
 - (g) Environmental Plans - part of CAM 7, PACE report outstanding with J&J, met with DEP managers, meeting minutes to be submitted by Gannett. ACTION
 - (h) Permits - CAM6 work effort
 - (i) Access - 4 parcels on hold: City concern with access at Police Station site, Rutgers circulation concern, and Babiak Agnew House coordination with SHPO
 - (j) Right-of-Way - on going work effort, appraisals underway, 2 parcels Richmond and Babiak are design exceptions. Right-of-way to be determined by March 25
2. (SL) questioned the status of Richmond Street issue. The right out option is supported by the City. (TL) will have a letter of resolution for the right out at Richmond and pedestrian overpass in two weeks. As a smart growth project it is critical to have access from Hiram Square to Boyd Park. ACTION
3. (TL) noted the City's support for 7 out of the 8 noise walls. They do not wish to have the noise wall at Boyd Park due to the visual obstruction, but would like the design to allow for adding the noise wall at a later date should it be supported by the City. Gannett will examine the type of structure possible given the design change in that area from a foundation system to fill. (TL) to revise wording that the design not inhibit the ability to add the noise wall in the future. (PN) to determine potential noise wall design. ACTION
4. (BB) noted environmental concern regarding contamination site and DEP request for more samples and clean up. Gannett to provide meeting minutes. (PG) to complete action plan and coordinate with (BB). (BB) to inform (SL) if discussion with Art Silver is needed for coordination with DEP. ACTIONS
5. (PG) is to determine the team leader from DEP appointed to this project to coordinate the Agnew House and other environmental requirements. ACTION
6. (SL) requested the status of the Newell/Phelps options. (TL) noted that the City supports the single access point and a roadway connection to Labor Center Way. The PIC comments and questionnaire indicated a majority of support for this option. However acquisition of the property from Tov Manor needed to complete the roadway connection, is still under negotiation. (TL) to speak with property owners within 15 days to provide assurance to the NJDOT that the City will acquire the property. (SL) gave approval for (PN) to begin preliminary engineering work. ACTIONS
7. Route 27 bike underpass has been designed using a four sided 10 x 14 box and meets FHWA requirements and constructibility. The aesthetic treatments to be developed in coordination with the CPT Corridor Aesthetics Group. ACTION
8. Police Station site will have access however the existing opening cannot remain open due to the proximity to the ramp posing both a safety and operational concern. An application for further access may be submitted in the future. (TL) to provide a brief summary letter with conditions to NJDOT. (BB) to release parcel for right-of-way to begin appraisal process in order to allow for acquisition and demolish. ACTIONS
9. (SL) questioned the number of sites for be demolished. (PN) noted three sites and one structure: the police station at Boyd Park, the Dettmer property at Paulus Boulevard, Cumberland Farms, and the pedestrian overpass. (SL) approved the request for early demolition of the properties. ACTION
10. (SL) asked about a status report he requested from Right-of-way to track this project. (BB) to check with Right-of-Way on the development of this status report. ACTION
11. (BB) explained Rutgers circulation concern due to the closing of a driveway on George Street. (BB)

and (PN) to meet with Frank Wong to finalize the access issue. ACTION

12. Green Acres process is on schedule. (PG) to coordinate with the City. (TL) requested assistance with the permitting. Jim Campbell to contact tax assessor to provide property value. Dave Smith is the Green Acres contact and is a CPT representative. ACTION

13. (SL) questioned the need for a reforestation plan. (PN) will coordinate with DEP on a reforestation plan and public forum. ACTION

14. Jurisdictional agreements will be developed between the State and the City. (PN) to meet with the City regarding lighting, maintenance and other issues requiring agreement. ACTION

15. (SL) informed the Committee that Deiner Park is not a part of this project as directed by the Commissioner, however options were suggested as a means to address the park needs (student actions or private partnership).

16. In house constructibility workshop was held in December. (BB) has memo of record. (SL) noted next step for the project team to meet with (BB) and NJDOT constructibility review under new process. ACTION

17. Streetscape booklet is in draft form. (JG) has given draft to (PN). (PN) to present draft booklet to (BB) and (SL) for review. ACTION

18. (SL) requested that the project team examine ways to reduce costs as directed by the Commissioner given the limited availability of funds. He suggested alternative materials and construction methods but not to jeopardize safety, operations or quality for the City and the region. Gannett will look for ways to reduce the estimated costs and present the issue with possible means to reduce costs at the next CPT meeting. ACTION

19. (SL) suggested that the CPT provide strong support to the Commissioner and the Governor for this project in order to maintain funding. (SM) will request a letter of support for the project from the legislative officials to endorse funding from the MPO. ACTION

20. (SL) requested a new display board of the proposed Route 18 improvements and one for the City to be given to (TL). Gannett will produce and deliver the color display boards. ACTION

21. (MC) to provide file of transcribed PIC comments to (PN) so Gannett may complete the responses to comments from the PIC. Responses have not been generated due to the need to resolve certain issues prior to response. Given the resolutions presented at this meeting, (PN) will provide responses to comments to (BB) so letters may now be sent. ACTION

22. (MC) to discuss comments from Dewey Heights neighborhood with Tom Kelso and to encourage attendance and communication for future meetings. Confirm alternate to attend CPT Group meetings if he is unable to attend. ACTION

23. (SL) and (MC) to meet to discuss the design of issues matrix and tracking. ACTION

24. (MC) reviewed the NJDOT support staff to be members of the CPT: Meg Palmer, Jim Tipone, lee Steiner, Chris Barretts, and someone from Traffic Ops as directed by Rod. (MC) will contact and provide CPT Handbooks. Additional community stakeholders to be added: police chief, fire chief, Ward Sterling Board of Education rep, and EMS coordinator for Wood Johnson and St. Peters. ACTION

25. (SL) discussed agenda items for next CPT meeting: new members, PIC results and comments, design refinements, cost savings, staging and traffic management, new CPT groups, project schedule and next steps. ACTION

26. (SL) reviewed the status of CAM 7 and adjourned the meeting:

(b) Steering Committee meeting - April, 2003

(c) CPT Meeting No. 16 - spring, 2003

KEY ACTION ITEMS

Steve Lavelle

- (1) Coordinate with (BB) and (PG) on status of contamination site.
- (2) Conduct meeting with (MC) to review issues matrix and tracking.

Steve Mikulak

- (1) Request letter of support for project funding from legislative representatives.

Tom Loughlin

- (1) Speak with Tov Manor property owners within 15 days to discuss acquisition of the parcel needed for connecting Newell/Phelps to Labor Center Way and provide assurance to the NJDOT that the City will acquire the property.
- (2) Modify access letter to include brief summary of considerations at the police station site and send to (BB).
- (3) Modify letter to revise wording of the decline of a noise wall at Boyd Park so to note that the retaining wall design does not prevent the ability to include a noise wall at that location in the future.
- (4) Provide letter of resolution for right out only at Richmond Street with pedestrian overpass.
- (5) Obtain new display board from Gannett and assistance on Green Acres permitting process.

Bill Birch (Luciana Costa Toller)

- (1) Coordinate with (PG) and (SL) on action plan for contamination site.
- (2) Release parcels for appraisal and right-of-way process.
- (3) Check with Right-of-Way on development of the project right-of-way status report.
- (4) Attend meeting with Rutgers on access issues.
- (5) Send out response to comment letters once obtained from Gannett and reviewed.
- (6) Review draft streetscape booklet once obtained from Gannett.
- (7) Determine status of CAM 7

Gannett Fleming

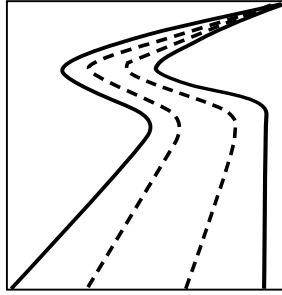
- (1) Complete DEP meeting minutes on contamination site and send to (BB).
- (2) Complete responses to PIC comments and send to (BB) for review and distribution.
- (3) Incorporate right only at Richmond and pedestrian overpass into design plans.
- (4) Conduct meeting with Rutgers on access issue.
- (5) Move toward acquisition and early demolition of requested parcels.
- (6) Begin preliminary design on roadway connection from Newell Phelps to Labor Center Way.
- (7) Create revised display board of Route 18 improvements for (SL) and (TL).
- (8) Coordinate with (PG) on contamination site, Green Acres process, and Babiak Agnew House.
- (9) Investigate noise wall design option for potential implementation in the future.
- (10) Investigate cost savings: alternate materials or construction methods to reduce cost.
- (11) Schedule NJDOT constructibility review under new process.

Martine Culbertson

- (1) Conduct meeting with (SL) to develop issue matrix.
- (2) Send transcribed PIC comments to (PN).
- (3) Contact Tom Kelso to inform him of Dewey Heights neighborhood comments.
- (4) Contact NJDOT staff and new community CPT members and provide CPT Handbooks.
- (5) Revise CPT members lists and materials.

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



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TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 9

AGENDA

March 7, 2003

City of New Brunswick, City Hall Council Chambers, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Objective: To provide project status and schedule, review design modifications; discuss outstanding issues and recommendations; and determine next steps for the CPT.

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| 10:30 a.m. | I. Welcome and Introductions | |
| | • Agenda and Goals | Lavelle |
| | • Project Status | Birch/Nowicki |
| 11:00 a.m. | II. Project Items | |
| | • CPT Update | Culbertson |
| | • Design Modifications | Nowicki/Johnson |
| | • Outstanding Issues and Recommendations | Nowicki |
| | • Environmental/Agency Coordination | Garrett |
| | • Next Steps for CPT | Culbertson/Mikulak |
| 12:15 p.m. | III. Summary and Close | |
| | • Project Action Items / Schedule | Birch/Nowicki |
| | • Closing Comments | Lavelle |

