

Town of Scarborough, Maine

Transportation Committee – Regular Meeting February 23, 2016 – TMCR, Town Hall

Call to Order and Introductions

Carol Rancourt called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. The committee took attendance. Committee members: Judy Roy, Ron Mazer, Roger Chabot, Steve Berg and Peter Hayes were in attendance.

Jen Ladd was absent.

Town staff Dan Bacon and Angela Blanchette were also in attendance, as well as Traffic Engineer Consultant Bill Bray.

Approval of Minutes

Judy Roy motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes from the January 27, 2016 meeting. Roger Chabot seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve.

Pine Point Road Improvements & Outreach Process

As a continuation of last month's discussion related to the improvements along Pine Point Road between Snow Canning Road and East Grand Avenue intersection, Dan discussed the need to balance competing interests. Staff is working on a better utilization of the footprint of the corridor to save money as MDOT plans for their pavement improvements this summer.

Based on feedback received from the Committee in January, Angela described the conceptual plan for the Committee, which included parking on one side of the street (the Landing side), 11-foot travel lanes, 4-foot wide bike lane on the Clam Bake side of the road, 5-foot wide bike lane on the Landing side of the road, the reconstruction of the existing 5-foot wide bituminous sidewalk, concrete curbing, bump-out islands at the new crosswalk, and at the transition into the East Grand Avenue intersection.

The Committee discussed pros and cons of the reduced travel lanes, and the fact that the Town Council Policy is to install concrete sidewalks in key locations throughout town. The Committee decided that at this location, due to costs and location it would make sense to install bituminous sidewalks along this stretch of roadway and transition to concrete at the intersection. Future projects along East Grand Avenue will include concrete sidewalks.

Steve Berg asked if ADA spaces are necessary. Staff will get information related to ADA requirements. Steve also asked if there was any consideration for lighting on the project.

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Staff has not included any lighting in the conceptual design, however this can be added if necessary in the future.

The Transportation Committee would like to schedule a Public Meeting to receive feedback on the conceptual design. The Committee discussed having it more as an Open House format and have it located at the Pine Point Fire Station. In addition, there was discussion of having a colored elevation for residents to have a better idea of what the corridor could look like. The date will correspond with the next Transportation Committee, March 23rd.

Dunstan Corner Intersection – Post-Construction Assessment

Dan explained that since the Town has spent a lot of time and money in the Dunstan intersection, we should follow-up with how well the traffic signals are functioning to ensure that more fine tuning is not needed.

Bill Bray, of Traffic Solutions provided an overview of the Traffic Operational Assessment that was provided to the Committee prior to the meeting. The Assessment was conducted to report the effectiveness of the completed roadway improvement project, when compared to the prior intersection geometry and traffic signal operations. Bill highlighted the volume of traffic that Broadturn Road sees, which is reaching 4,000 vehicles per hour in the peak PM hour. The results of the assessment clearly show the significant improvements in the Measures of Effectiveness (MOE). Bill also discussed the bigger picture of how the Payne Road divergent was designed to direct 15-20% of previous Payne Road volumes to Hagis Parkway.

The Committee was happy with the results and suggested that the results be shared with the Planning Board and Council. Ron suggested that this be a Planning Board workshop item.

Eastern Trail Funding Update

Dan explained that all but \$600,000 - \$700,000 of the \$3.7 million Eastern Trail project has been secured. A fundraising committee has been formed to come up with ideas to bridge this gap. The committee meets monthly. There is potential to target big companies to pull out specific segments of the trail from the overall project and lower the cost. Bridge and Excavating Contractors will be targeted. We are currently in the right-of-way and Final Design stage of the project, which is anticipated to take 10 months.

East-West Corridor Study

Dan shared with the Committee a letter that was sent to the Maine Turnpike Authority from the Town of Gorham. The towns of Scarborough, South Portland, Westbrook, and Standish,

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as well as Senator Collins, Senator King, Representative Pingree, Representative Polliquin, US Army Corps of Engineers, and PACTS were copied on the letter. The letter stated that the Town of Gorham Council supports a new controlled access highway, and noted that the widening of the existing roads would have a huge adverse impact on their community. The Town of Gorham “supports MTA’s continued efforts to move onto the next step in this project.”

Next Meeting

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be scheduled as the Pine Point Road Improvements Public Meeting on March 23rd at the Pine Point Fire Station.