

Meredith US Route 3/ NH Route 25 Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2014

Committee Members Present:

Lou Kahn, Chairman, Board of Selectmen Rep.
Liz Lapham, Planning Board Rep.
Jack Carty, Greater Meredith Program Rep.
Rusty McLear, Greater Meredith Program Rep. (Alternate)
L. Michael Hatch
Fred Hatch
Warren Clark
Phil Warren, Town Manager
John Edgar, Community Development Director

Committee Members Absent:

Sandra Sullivan

Project Team Members Present:

Don Lyford, Project Manager, NHDOT
Gene McCarthy, Project Manager, McFarland Johnson
Jeff Santacruce, McFarland Johnson

The September 18, 2014 meeting of the US Route 3/ NH Route 25 Advisory Committee was held at the Meredith Community Center. The meeting was brought to order at 3:02 PM by Chairman Kahn.

Approval of Minutes. The draft minutes of August 21, 2014 were reviewed. Mike Hatch made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Rusty McLear seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Chairman Kahn reminded the committee of his goal is to hold a public hearing as soon as possible to present the preferred alternative.

US Route 3/ NH Route 25 Intersection- Single Lane Roundabout Option. Gene recapped by reminding the committee that the two-lane was taken off the table and he was asked make modifications to a single-lane roundabout with additional consideration given to: (1) avoidance of impacts to Bootleggers, (2) minimize impacts to Bay Point, (3) preserve as much of the northeast corner as possible. Gene presented two new variations, one prepared by NHDOT and one by Michael Wallwork. NHDOT is not supportive of either option for various reasons.

US Route 3/ NH Route 25 Intersection- Intermediate Signalization Option. Gene McCarthy described the Intermediate Option. This option includes a double right turn lane configuration for traffic turning onto NH 25 eastbound resulting in some widening on NH Route 25. This option does not include a dedicated right turn lane on NH Route 25 for westbound traffic wishing to turn right onto US Route 3 North. This option processes less peak traffic wishing to turn left onto US Route 3 southbound. Gene noted that sidewalks and 5' shoulders must be considered for NH Route 25 however there could be some flexibility.

Pleasant Street Bypass Option. Liz asked that the committee take a position on the bypass option. Chairman Kahn suggested this option was dead given the memo received from, McFarland Johnson. Don Lyford made reference to correspondence with Senator Ayotte's office. Liz noted that the Village Pathways Committee needs to know whether this is still under consideration by the 3-25 Advisory Committee. Liz noted the Bypass Option represents significant potential impacts to the Hawkins Brook Eco-Trail project which is being coordinated by the Village Pathways Committee. Mike Hatch made a motion to drop the Pleasant Street Bypass Option from further consideration. Jack Carty seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Pedestrian Options. Gene noted the pedestrian *underpass* option discussed at the previous meeting that would raise US Route 3 and include retaining walls. Gene presented specific graphic information regarding the viability of a pedestrian tunnel entirely beneath US Route 3. Accessibility requirements would result in substantial ramping which would impact private parking and Hesky Park. The tunnel would be approximately 8' below lake level. It was the consensus of the Committee to not pursue the tunnel option or the underpass option further.

There was considerable discussion regarding pedestrian activated signals and pedestrian island refuges. Several members expressed displeasure with the aesthetics of the new signal at Rite Aid.

Pleasant Street Intersection. Chairman Kahn advised that following the August meeting, John Edgar reached out to Crosspoint Associates, Inc. owners of the shopping center. Kerry McCormack, Director of Development for Crosspoint identified himself at the 9/18/14 meeting. Mr. McCormack indicated that Crosspoint would be interested in a roundabout entrance/exit to the shopping center but was unaware that a signal was an alternative under consideration. He said they would be interested in that option.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the 3/25 Advisory Committee was scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 3:00 PM.

With no further business to come before the Committee, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.