

ROUTE 18
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY
PARTNERING TEAM**

CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

**COMMUNITY PARTNERING TEAM
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
MEETING NO. 1 REPORT**

DATE: November 24, 2003
TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Middlesex County Planning Dept. Conference Room,
Elks Building, City of New Brunswick, NJ
ATTENDEES: Listed at the end of the report

1. PURPOSE OF MEETING

To establish the goal of the Task Force; review staging; discuss and prioritize local traffic management issues; and develop recommendations to be presented to the Steering Committee for consideration. (Agenda attached)

2. MEETING SUMMARY

Martine Culbertson opened the meeting asking participants to introduce themselves and the organization they represent. She reviewed the agenda for today's meeting and the goal of the Task Force. This Task Force has been established to review the construction staging traffic management plans and to make recommendations to the Steering Committee regarding traffic, cycling or pedestrian issues. Martine then introduced Kiran Patel who is the new NJDOT Project Manager replacing Bill Birch.

Kiran Patel provided an overview of the project status and schedule. Final design plans are to be submitted for review by February 18, 2004. A contract enhancement team has been established to examine the types of contract specifications, which could benefit this project regarding enhancements to maintain the construction schedule and to ensure quality.

Darryl Johnson presented a review of the design improvements for the Route 18 corridor and the signal modifications, some of which will be temporary for construction staging purposes and other which will be permanent. He then introduced Joe Livingston from Gannett Fleming to provide information on the eight construction stages. A set of maps and detours routes associated with the stages was distributed to the participants.



Joe Livingston began by explaining that there are eight stages and the entire construction project is estimated to take 47 months (3 to 4 years). NJDOT and Gannett Fleming have been analyzing options to accelerate the project, however some options which save time also create major traffic impacts which may not be desirable. Joe then provided information for each of the stages noting the activities to occur and the associated possible traffic impacts. Questions and discussions were held for each stage. Issues were noted during each stage and are listed below.

Q - Will there be archeological work during the stages and will it impact the schedule?

A - Yes, there will be monitoring and the contractor will provide for such efforts. Presently much of the archeological work has been completed. Some Boyd Park work is expected during construction.

Stage 1

These are offline improvements and temporary paving to prepare for Stage 2 work. Traffic will be maintained in both directions. The Newell Phelps connector road work could be a part of this stage. Tom Loughlin is coordinating with the residents to determine the appropriate time. Also in this stage, Route 27 and Nelson work will be done to the jog and extend left turn. Work to be done in the evening after 9:00 p.m. Rutgers does move students via buses until 3:00 a.m. A lot of utility work to be done in Stage 1 and Stage 2.

- Traffic congestion during pavement widening
- No detour during this phase
- Police – need for municipal agreement, officers must have State training, resource determination (action item)
- Albany Street - Potential Congestion
- Left Turn Lane at Commercial-Day Time
- Lane closure New Brunswick A.M. northbound very bad
- Raritan Garden area neighborhood to be paved in 2004
- Contractor should have limited ability for lane closures - high communication
- Trained flaggers – employed by contractor, required training, not certified

Stage 2

Widening of the road way from Route 1 southbound past Paulus Boulevard to George Street and southbound from George to Commercial. The bus turn out work and pedestrian overpass at Carpenter Road will be constructed. The rock slope in front of Antilles field will begin in this stage with a shift in traffic on Route 18 to cut into cliff area. New Street interchange will be fully closed. Sewer work to be done in this stage. This stage will take an estimated 10 to 11 months.

Q – How will pedestrians cross at Commercial Avenue?

A – Pedestrians will cross with the double left traffic at the temporary signal.

- Consider limiting parking from Nelson to George (one side) and both sides after George
- Lane reduction 3,3 from Route 1 to Paulus Blvd. will become 2,2 lanes
- Lane Restrictions – estimate 3 months
- New Street interchange will be closed for an estimated 10 months
- Pedestrian Bridge in Stage 2 – concern for pedestrian safety
- Put traffic signal at Commercial/Nelson - (REC)
- Nelson will be made 2 way during construction
- New Brunswick Public Bldg. under construction in Stage 1/Stage 2 or will be in progress
- Parking on Commercial Avenue - Eliminated, Stage 1, Route 18 to Nelson - final after construction, no parking

- Traffic signalization - George to Commercial, left turn signal
- Full tractor trailer detour must be reviewed - direct trucks to Route 27 Albany, 18-wheeler trucks cannot make the turn at George
- New to Oliver - suspend parking in that area
- At New Street structure, there will be lane shifts on Route 18 during demolition
- Erecting steel structures will involve lane closures and periodical night time shut down for 10 to 15 minutes
- Sewer relocation dates are needed
- Signage for New Street pedestrians needed to direct them to Commercial for Boyd Park

Stage 3

The work effort is focused on Commercial Avenue and on Albany Street. At Commercial the approach ramps will be build and the bridge. No left turn in or out but only right turns. Albany will be built southbound and then the northbound piece. Route 27 southbound to route 18 southbound will be closed. Richmond to Burnett Street will be closed.

- Burnett closed is an issue
- Construct slip ramp, prior to closing Burnett considered, but not possible
- Johnson one lane in/out - they'll go to Bishop, 4:30 p.m. could have heavy traffic
- Right turn only at George
- Examine pedestrian movement
- This stage is estimated to take 7 months
- Signalize Nelson at J & J peak movement Albany, Nelson, New
- Parking garage movements
- Commercial - no lefts in/out, direct traffic George to New
- Right on New - problems for tractor-trailers – recommend readjusting stop bar
- Corner is under development – need to review projects with City and DEVCO
- Rutgers Arts Street Bookstore, N.E. corner, may be under construction during this stage
- Sign tractor-trailers: Rt. 1 N George's Rd, go Sanford St. to Livingston, make right there
- Encourage regional traffic to take Route 287, Route 18 Extension
- Conduct meetings prior to each stage with Police and Fire (Action Item)

Stage 4

The collector distributor roadway will be constructed. Commercial Avenue to be completed with traffic shifts needed to build northbound with lots of fill. It is important for the Phelps Newell connection roadway to be built by this stage and before the work to be done at George Street. Also the pedestrian/bike underpass is to be constructed. Route 27 will be reduced to 3 lanes and then to 2 lanes and for a two-week period only one lane will be open. Temporary signals were discussed and the option to only allow emergency vehicles to use the structure during that 2-week period. Given Ramp A closure makes it more effective for staging and building the underpass.

- Gibsons - sign Rt. 1/North/South
- Send out Ryders Lane - direct traffic away from downtown
- Traffic shifts mean slower traffic in both directions
- Albany Street - one lane each direction, suggest J&J, no left hand turn
- Prefer temporary signals than flaggers - needed 24hours and safety issue
- Albany one lane must stay open then close bridge when one lane except EMS use
- Prefer to do this work with ramp closed in the summer (less traffic and students out)
- Possible suggestion is to allow transit vehicles only in addition to EMS vehicles (needs further discussion - may be hard to enforce)
- Utility relocations - concern for delays and impact on traffic

Stage 5

This is the construction of the George Street interchange. The Newell Phelps connection roadway must be completed in order for emergency vehicles to access the neighborhoods. New street and Commercial and Albany will now be open to vehicles.

- Impacts at George interchange
- Speed limit set 45 during stage review speeds

Stage 6

This stage involves complex specialty construction. The Boyd Park work in this phase requires large arches to be erected, which may cause daily lane closures.

- Access to Boyd may vary
- Daily lane closures to bring Arches
- Need to notify public of access limits of Boyd Park
- Boat launch access to River may be impacted and may require temporary new location for water access

Stage 7 and Stage 8

These stages involve Boyd Park reconstruction and will be off the roadway area. Traffic impacts may be less, however park access may be limited.

A Summary of Traffic Management Issues and Recommendations was then distributed to the participants. Martine explained that these were the issues raised at previous CPT meetings. She reviewed each issue. The revised matrix is attached.

Martine then asked participants to provide any additional comments or feedback on the meeting. The following comments were noted:

Comments/Feedback

- Look at 3 traffic signals: examine phasing, they can back up into construction
Narcom Place East Brunswick
Chapel Drive & George Street
Gibsons Drive & George Street
- The police need to provide information on one way roads, parking, detours, truck delivery
- There needs to be a meeting to focus on traffic signals and a follow-up task force meeting to review changes and report on results
- Contact Bus companies to review their routes and potential impacts (Coach USA, NY buses, and train)
- Parking Authority is a member of the Task Force
- NJ Turnpike is concerned with Stage 2 potential traffic impacts
- Effort to reach out to the Latino cultural groups in the City (Communications Task Force)
- Provide information on sites – for or against staging locations, contractors could be visiting the area in the spring to make inquiries.
- Determine Rutgers' intentions regarding limiting access to College Farm Road
- Determine condition of traffic lights (manual/auto) and where Signal Controllers exist or are needed
- Contact Greg Edwards, Court Administrator for Middlesex County for Communications
- Other stakeholders to contact: Somerset County, Franklin Township, North Brunswick, Piscataway and Metuchan.

To summarize, Darryl Johnson reviewed the action items generated during the meeting. They are listed in the section below. He noted the need to address items and come to closure on the traffic management plans in order to meet the project schedule.

To close, Kiran thanked Task Force members for their input and emphasized the shortened project schedule requiring all traffic management information to be provided for the draft specifications to be submitted by December 15, 2003. Please provide information as soon as possible and no later than the next meeting to be held in New Brunswick on December 11th for the Public Information/Communications CPT Task Force. Kiran also noted that the next step would be for the Steering Committee to review the issues and recommendations generated at the task force meetings. CPT members will be notified of the next task force and CPT Meeting No. 17. Meeting minutes will be distributed to all CPT members. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

3. ACTION ITEMS

1. Task Force members to review: proposed detours, street parking, one way/two way circulation, and traffic signals (temp or permanent) and controllers. Police and Fire to provide information to Tom Loughlin. City to then provide information to Kiran Patel and to Gannett Fleming.
2. Task Force members to review truck limitation and possible detours. Send input to Gannett Fleming.
3. Task Force members to identify signage needs, ITS and VMS locations. Send input to Gannett Fleming.
4. Schedule a focused Traffic Signals meeting with NJDOT, City, Rutgers, and County.
5. Task Force members to inform Kiran Patel or GF of any potential construction staging, field office or storage sites to encourage or avoid.
6. Bus companies to be contacted regarding route impacts – Coach USA, NY buses, Academy and NJTRANSIT and trains.
7. Have City Parking Authority review detours and parking limitations.
8. Contact parking garages where detours may impact traffic movements.
9. City to determine police resource requirements and municipal agreement to be developed
10. Determine if Route 27 Albany Street bridge should be closed to only EMS vehicles for the two-week period during Stage 4 of construction.
11. NJ Turnpike to review carefully Stage 2 where traffic impacts could effect exit.
12. City and DEVCO to provide list of projects under construction or to be constructed during this project.
13. Traffic Management meetings to be conducted prior to each Stage to review impacts, detours and procedures.
14. Task Force members to review materials with their constituents and provide input to Gannett Fleming directly.
15. Meeting report and future meeting notices to be done by M. A. Culbertson.

4. NEXT CPT MEETING

Date: Public Information and Communications Task Force Meeting No. 1

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

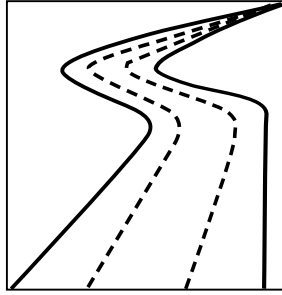
Location: Middlesex Cty. Conference Room, Elks Building, City of New Brunswick, NJ

5. LIST OF ATTENDEES

ATTENDEES: REPRESENTING	PHONE/FAX #s	
Members		
Morteza Ansari	KMM	732-745-2326
Capt. Michael A. Bar	Middlesex Sheriff	732-745-3163
Bill Bradley	New Brunswick Fire Dept	732-745-5169
John M. Donelly	Piscataway Twp	732-562-6560
Michael Drulis	Office of Mayor Cahill	732-745-5004
Sgt. Pat English	Highland Park	732-572-3800
Hamid Ghadimy	N.J.T.A.	732-247-0900
Lawrence Kolodzig	Middlesex County	732-690-9287
Ofr. Dave Martella	New Brunswick Police Dept.	732-745-5165
Robert McLaughlin	New Brunswick Fire Dept	732-745-5167
Lt. William Milligan	New Brunswick Police Dept.	732-745-5280
Bruce McCracken	Middlesex County Planning	732-745-3250
Bob Spear	Rutgers	732-932-6966
George M. Ververides	Middlesex County Planning	732-745-3013
Steve Zarecki	New Brunswick Public Works	732-245-5104
Steering Committee		
Kiran Patel	NJDOT, Div. of Project Mgmt.	609-530-2498
Steve Mikulak	NJDOT, Community Relations	609-530-6558
Thomas Loughlin	City of New Brunswick	732-745-5007
Darryl Johnson	Gannett Fleming, Inc.	908-755-0040
Martine Culbertson	M. A. Culbertson, LLC	856-795-8485
Project Support		
Mark Hauske	NJDOT/VM	609-530-5278
Lee Steiner	NJDOT, TS & SE	732-409-3266
John Szafranski	NJDOT, Construction	732-409-3270
Jim Timpone	NJDOT, Construction	732-929-0674
Joe Livingston	Gannett Fleming	908-755-0040
Glenn Stevens	Gannett Fleming	908-755-0040
Phyllis St. Onge	M. A. Culbertson, LLC	856-795-8485

Report prepared by:

Martine Culbertson, CPT Facilitator



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**CPT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
TASK FORCE MEETING No. 1**

AGENDA

November 24, 2003

Middlesex County Planning Dept. Conference Room, Elks Building, New Brunswick, NJ

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Objective: To establish the goal of the Task Force; review staging; discuss and prioritize local traffic management issues; and develop recommendations to be presented to the Steering Committee for consideration.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Project Status Overview
- Agenda and CPT Review

II. Local Traffic Management

- Review Construction Staging
- Identify Traffic Management Issues
- Group Discussion and Recommendations

III. Summary and Close

- Action Items / Next Steps
- Closing Comments



State of New Jersey Department of Transportation

Division of Project Management