

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BUREAU OF HIGHWAY DESIGN**

MEETING SUMMARY

PROJECT: NASHUA-MERRIMACK-BEDFORD 13761
F. E. Everett Turnpike Widening of Two Lane Sections
from Exit 8 (Nashua) to I-293 (Bedford)

DATE OF MEETING: March 29, 2018

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: Bedford Town Hall, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH

ATTENDED BY PROJECT TEAM:

NHDOT

Wendy Johnson

Jon Hebert

Dan Prehemo

Jon Evans

Stephen LaBonte

CHA-MJ Team

Bill Ashford

John Parelli

Jed Merrow

Jordan Tate

Jennifer Zorn

Michael Long

GENERAL PUBLIC:

Ten people signed in. A few other people attended but did not sign in (see attached sign-in sheets)

SUBJECT: Public Informational Meeting

NOTES ON MEETING:

The F. E. Everett Turnpike (FEET) project involves widening three segments of the Turnpike from two lanes to three lanes in each direction. The project starts at a point just north of the Tinker Road Bridge (over the Turnpike) in Nashua and proceeds northerly for 12 miles to the I-293/NH-101 Interchange in Bedford and only addresses roadway and bridge work within the segments to be widened. The sections proposed for widening encompass a total of 8.1 miles. No changes are proposed to the toll plazas or the interchanges along this corridor. However, there will be noise study evaluations for the entire 12 mile corridor.

The meeting consisted of an Open House from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM with a Formal Presentation at 7:00 PM. The presentation is attached.

Prior to the formal presentation, a number of attendees were given a description of the work and a walk-through of the draft project plans and asked general questions. Specific questions and responses are described below.

Within the presentation, focus was given to the bridges over the Pennichuck Brook and Baboosic Brook, as well as the bridges carrying Wire Road and Baboosic Lake Road over the Turnpike. The presentation also focused on impacts to the environmental resources, including concerns related to stormwater and noise.

Below are the public comments received at the meeting.

Bill Duschatko, Bedford Town Council Chairman– Expressed concerns regarding the Finding of Necessity and who would be responsible for this effort. It was explained that this would occur as part of the Public Hearing process and the Special Committee and the Commission overseeing the project. The Special Committee will include three of the Executive Councilors and they would make the determination of Necessity. Mr. Duschatko also expressed concern that the project be coordinated with other projects in or near Bedford so as not to inhibit traffic movements within the town. W. Johnson stated that this is typically done as part of NHDOT's normal practice.

Mr. Duschatko also asked if there was any consideration given to park and ride facilities? Answer – No, that was not the focus or in the scope of this project. However, it was noted that park and ride lots would not have the capacity to significantly reduce the traffic on the roadway. Mr. Duschatko noted that Bedford is considering some locations for park and ride lots.

Name unknown – Asked what the average daily traffic on the FEET is? Answer – Approximately 60-70,000 vehicles per day currently.

Name unknown – Asked how traffic would be handled during the replacement of the bridges over Pennichuck Brook? Answer – The roadway would be widened to the east, allowing for two lanes of travel in each direction to be maintained during almost all construction activities. There may be a need to confine the traffic to one lane for certain operations, but they would be limited to low flow time frames or off-peak hours.

Ralph Dutton, Parcel B25 – Expressed concerns about noise (he lives in the Teaberry Lane area). He requested a sound wall and feels that it is discriminatory that apartment-type residents are much more likely to receive noise abatement than homeowners. Answer – Received explanation regarding the NHDOT noise policy and information regarding his specific location which included an explanation that a soundwall will not be installed at this location as the neighborhood would not meet the Department's effectiveness criteria.

Owner of Mini-Cooper Property, Parcel B50 – Noted that there is a new conservation easement on the property associated with Patten Brook that goes behind the dealership and under the Turnpike.

Becky Hebert, Planning Director, Town of Bedford – Also noted the Conservation Easement on Parcel B50. She also noted that there is interest in making a trail connection from the west side of the Turnpike to the Merrimack River at approximately STA 1410+00 (just north of the project end point). Subsequently, it was concluded that this request is outside the project limits, as well as the scope of this project.

Jeff Foote, Bedford Public Works Director – Was wondering about the possibility of putting a sleeve under the Turnpike for a future wastewater connection in the area of Sunset Lane and County Road (STA 1345+00 +/-). He also felt that sound walls should be provided in the Teaberry Lane area. The noise study for the project and the NHDOT's noise policy were explained. Specific details of this neighborhood were also discussed.

Phil Greazzo, Bedford Town Councilor – Expressed the desire to see sound walls erected to protect Teaberry and Mulberry Lane residents and also asked if dense plantings would offer relief. Answer - Received explanation regarding the noise study for the project and the NHDOT noise policy. He was also told that the cost of the wall would be approximately \$1.3 million and that plantings would not provide much relief from noise.

Name unknown, Trustee for Parcel B30, Lands of Paul H. Macewen (east of the Turnpike) – This parcel is for sale. The person suggested that the owners are not overly concerned about the project and was just there to gain an understanding of the proposed changes so as to let her realtor know so that they could inform any potential buyers. She also asked about the timing of the ROW process and was told that it would be at least a year or two in coming. She was also given an overview of the entire project.

Patrol Officer, Town of Bedford – Expressed interest in possible traffic impacts to town roads. He was concerned that traffic would leave the Turnpike and use town roads. Also asked about changes to tolling. Answer – Was told that two lanes of travel would be maintained at almost all times (possible night operations may reduce the roadway to one lane or rolling road blocks could be used for some operations) and that this project does not make any changes to tolls.

Submitted By:

Michael D. Long, P.E.


ATTACHMENTS:

Presentation
List of Attendees

F.E. Everett Turnpike Widening Project

Public Informational Meeting - Bedford
March 29, 2018

SIGN IN SHEET

Name	Affiliation	Phone Number	E-Mail	
Julie Des	SNWPC			
S. Gaudi				
Vivien MacEwen				
JEFF FOOT	TOWN			
Bub LAMIEY				
Dave Davidson (Rep)				
Chris Bandezian	Bedford Town Council			
Rep. Jack Houde				
William R Green II	Bedford Historic Commis			
ROBERT SELWYN				