

**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: May 1, 2018

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: Merrimack High School
38 McElwain St, Merrimack, NH

ATTENDED BY PROJECT TEAM:

NHDOT
Wendy Johnson
Jon Hebert
Dan Prehemo
Jon Evans

CHA-MJ Team
Bill Ashford
John Parelli
Jed Merrow
Jordan Tate
Jennifer Zorn
Michael Long

GENERAL PUBLIC:

Fifty-eight 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 FEET) 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.

Kyle Fox, Director, Merrimack Public Works Department and Dawn Tuomala Deputy Director, Merrimack Public Works Department and Merrimack Town Engineer - They were appreciative that the Department came to present the project. Question – Would the Department consider installing a crossover south of Exit 10 for emergency response vehicles to use? Answer - This will be considered. Question – Is a noise wall proposed at the school? Can the wall be broken and the access driveway maintained? Answer - A noise wall is currently proposed at the high school but this would block the existing emergency access driveway to the Turnpike. There are three options that the Department is considering, eliminating the access, breaking the wall to maintain access and shifting the access point to the south of the proposed wall. It was discussed that removing the access was not desirable. It was also discussed that if the access is maintained in its present location, it would reduce the effectiveness of the sound wall. The Department will evaluate the reduction and the Town will determine if the current location is still preferable, as the location can be shifted as a part of the proposed project. The Town will coordinate with the Fire Department and the School Board on the desired location and will respond to the Department. Question – The Town has heard that the Department may be installing a maintenance turnaround near Exit 12. Is this true and what is the schedule for doing so? Answer – The Department will check on this. *Subsequent to the meeting it was determined that maintenance turnarounds are proposed as part of the Bedford Toll Plaza Open Road Tolling Project. That project is presently on hold, so these turnarounds are not being implemented at this time.*

Jerry Giesecke, resident, – Mr. Giesecke received a general overview of the project. He was concerned with noise and suggested that a way to limit the noise in the area could be to eliminate the rumble strips or to install signs indicating that trucks should not use their “Jake Brakes.” Question - He asked if his property, parcel M62, would have a new soundwall located adjacent to it. Answer – A soundwall is not currently proposed adjacent to his property. Noise impacts and criteria for sound abatement were discussed and, although not pleased with the response, he understood the situation. He also asked about construction noise specific to night work. It was discussed that night work could be allowed for specific operations such as drainage installations or paving operations, but the majority of the work, including blasting operations, would be performed during daylight hours.

Jeanine Notter, State Representative – She received a general overview of the project. She expressed major concerns over the potential for graffiti on the proposed noise walls. She suggested that perhaps full height berms could be used instead of the walls. It was noted that this could be cost prohibitive and would take more space to construct.

Brenda Dulong, resident – Ms. Dulong received a general overview of the project. She was concerned with potential impacts to the Methodist Church property, parcel M164. There are no proposed Right-of-Way impacts to this parcel. She provided insight that traffic is backed up in the morning rush hour in the southbound direction and in the northbound direction in the afternoon rush hour. She further noted that vehicles divert off of the Turnpike onto US Route 3 when traffic backs up on the Turnpike. She was pleased with the proposed sidewalks on Baboosic Lake Road as there are a lot of children that walk in this area.

Brian Gleason, (resident – Mr. Gleason wanted to discuss his property and if a soundwall was proposed at that location. There is a soundwall proposed near his property in the vicinity of Exit 11, of which he was in favor. His concern was if someone could request that the wall not be installed. It was discussed that the installation of the wall could be disputed. There is a process where, if there is a dispute, it is resolved by a majority vote.

William Boyd III, Merrimack Town Councilor – Mr. Boyd was thankful that the Department came to present the project. He was also concerned with graffiti on the sound walls and suggested that the Department consider tray type walls with plants. It was noted that the Department has used these, somewhat unsuccessfully in the past. He also asked that the Department contact the Merrimack Public Works Department to see if they would like to have a set of plans in their office for interested residents. *Subsequent to the meeting the NHDOT contacted the Public Works Department to see if they would like a set of plans. They requested and received a set of 11X17 plans.*

Ruby Hieken, Owner of Parcel M95 – Ms. Hieken was interested in impacts to her property and was shown that there are currently are no direct impacts. She expressed no concerns other than that there is currently erosion occurring along the banks of the Baboosic Brook, which is adjacent to her property.

Thomas Koenig, Merrimack Town Council – Mr. Koenig had concerns about the noise levels at the neighborhood near the proposed stormwater treatment basin adjacent to the East Ridge condominiums (near Station 970). No soundwall is proposed in this area as the units are well below the elevation of the Turnpike. He was concerned about the removal of trees due to the installation of the stormwater treatment basin.

Shawn Morrissey, resides in “The Birches” – Mr. Morrissey received an explanation of the project and once it was determined that his home was 400 to 500 feet from the Turnpike, he had no concerns.

William Boyd III, Merrimack Town Councilor – Question – Were the modifications that were made or proposed to the other bridges along Baboosic Brook considered when evaluating the FFET bridge over the brook? Answer – Yes, the FEET Bridge over Baboosic Brook is similar in size to the other local road bridges over the brook. Question – Who will maintain the stormwater treatment basins along the Turnpike and will they conform with the MS4 requirements? Answer – The NHDOT will maintain the basins, the project will conform to MS4 requirements. Question – who maintains the noise barriers, including removing graffiti? Answer – The NHDOT will maintain the barriers and is responsible for removing graffiti as time and budget allow. Question – What is the current and proposed Level of Service (LOS)? Answer – Currently, during the peak hour, some portions of the roadway operate at LOS E and F and will operate even worse as time goes on if nothing is done. With the improvements the roadway will

operate at least at LOS D until 2044, with some minor areas slightly less than that. Question – Was future proposed development considered when determining the traffic volumes? Answer – Yes, this information was used to develop the projected traffic volumes in 2044.

Name unknown - Question: Will sidewalks be installed on Wire Road Bridge? Answer - Wire Road currently does not have sidewalks, along the road or on the bridge, therefore there is no plan to add sidewalks.

Name unknown - Question: Will the temporary traffic signals that will control alternating one-way traffic during the Wire Road Bridge construction have an emergency vehicle override (Opticom Controls)? Answer - At this point in preliminary design this level of detail has not yet been discussed, but as the project progresses to final design the details of this traffic signal will be coordinated with local emergency responders and the use of override controls will be considered.

Janet Cyr, resident - Asked what specifically was going to be done in front of her home at East Ridge Condominiums. Her home is east of the Turnpike near Station 970. A stormwater treatment basin is shown in this area. Ms. Cyr expressed concerns about the steepness of the bank and clearing of trees. Furthermore, she stated that it looked like the proposed ROW line was just off the back of her condominium. Answer - In this area the plans are currently showing a property acquisition to accommodate water quality treatment. The current design indicates the placement of a detention basin, but a basin will only be placed there if there is adequate room and that the design will take into account the embankment slope, the clearing needed, and the impact to the adjacent property. As the preliminary design progresses the details of what will be constructed in this area will be refined and therefore what is currently being shown is a larger impact area than may be needed. *Note that after the meeting this area was reevaluated for the type of BMP to be used. Ms. Cyr was informed that only a treatment swale (ditch) would be placed in this area and that impacts would be minimized.*

Name unknown – Question - I-93 has four lanes and the turnpike is only getting three. Why? Answer – Four lanes are not required to serve the traffic along the FEET.

Shanna Barnes, Merrimack School Board – Asked about the noise analysis near the school. Answer – A noise analysis was conducted and a soundwall is proposed along the school property.

Nat Fairbanks, Clay Street neighborhood – Question – Why were some homes left off the noise evaluation? Answer – The noise analysis has not been finalized yet. There will be further evaluations in some areas before issuing a final report. Question – Can the noise information be provided on the website? Answer – When the report is finalized the information will be summarized in the final Environmental Study and will be available for public comment as a part of the Hearing process. This document will be available at least 30 days prior to the Hearing and will be posted to the project website.

Name unknown – Question - Why were some receptors were not included. Answer – The noise analysis has not been finalized yet. There will be further evaluations in some areas before issuing a final report.

Brianna McBee, Roundtree Drive – Question – Why aren't we getting a noise barrier? Answer - Mr. Evans explained the NHDOT noise process and the analysis results. This area did not receive a noise wall as it did not meet both the minimum feasible and reasonable criteria. The Department's noise abatement criteria are 66 decibels and, once this minimum is reached, a barrier must provide at least a 5-decibel reduction. He indicated that the intent of the three public informational meetings is to provide information about various aspects of the project, including noise impacts. Question – Will NHDOT come back and take additional measurements? Answer – No, the noise impacts are based on the peak hour noise levels which are based on the traffic volumes during the current year and future design year (2044). These levels are higher than the measurements taken during the day. Ms. Zorn also directed Ms. McBee to review the project website which contains the noise policy and gives more information regarding traffic noise. Ms. McBee also provided written comments which state: Roundtree Drive will directly be affected with the widening of the highway, but we are not receiving (as of yet) a noise barrier. This is extremely upsetting. We have dogs, children, and would even like to sleep with our windows open at night without concerns of noise and safety without barriers. Please email me so we can make sure our voices are heard. *Subsequent to the meeting the NHDOT contacted Ms. McBee and confirmed that her message was received.*

Name unknown – Question – When were noise measurements done? Answer – Mr. Evans provided an explanation of how the predicted noise levels are obtained. Noise measurements are taken during normal working hours. These measurements are simply used to calibrate the noise model by comparing them to the actual traffic volumes when the measurements are taken. These are not the noise levels that are presented within the report. The predicted noise levels during the current (2016) and design (2044) years are provided by the noise model.

Name unknown – Question – What is being proposed at Baboosic Brook? Answer – A new bridge is proposed since the existing structure is hydraulically undersized and does not provide adequate hydraulic capacity.

Ernest Jeffrey – Question - Asked about noise during construction and working hours – Answer – Mr. Evans and Ms. Johnson responded that this is not usually an issue, but that the contractor must work within specified time limits and would be restricted from working at night except in needed instances, such as drainage crossings or bridge beam placement. Some work may also occur, on Saturdays. No work is allowed on Sundays. Question – Can a full interchange be provided at Bedford Road? Answer – A new interchange is not feasible without extensive impacts to properties adjacent to the roadway and is simply not viable at this time, thus it is not a part of this project.

Name unknown – This person asked if noise studies were done in other areas and Mr. Evans said that he could provide information about specific areas after the meeting. Question – Are noise barriers included within the project cost presented today? Answer – Yes, an estimated cost for each of the barriers is included within the overall cost.

Name unknown, Clay Street resident – Question – Why were noise measurements taken at 9 AM as opposed to during rush hour? Answer – The measurements are used to calibrate the model. The actual predicted noise level at each receptor is based on what the model provides using peak hour traffic volumes. *See the other responses above as well.*

Name unknown, Clay Street resident – Question – Can additional sound walls be added to the project or is it based on the budget available? Answer – Any walls must meet the feasible and reasonable criteria established by the FHWA and the NHDOT and are not discounted due to budget constraints.

Diane Donahue, Clay Street resident – Ms. Donahue indicated that her house shakes now when heavy vehicles pass by on the FEET. She is concerned that the roadway will be 12' closer once it is completed. Can anything be done to mitigate this impact? Answer – This will be investigated as part of the design. There may also be vibration monitoring during construction at this location.

Name unknown, Roundtree Drive resident – This homeowner stated that they felt home values would be diminished and that tree clearing would make the roadway more noticeable and louder. This person also questioned the time of the day that the data was gathered. *See the answer to similar questions above.*

Name unknown – This homeowner stated that they also felt home values would be diminished and that the quality of life will go down.

Name unknown, Roundtree Drive – Question – Can noise information be provided in this area? Answer – Yes, as noted above, a summary will be provided as part of the environmental study that will be provided on the website.

Name unknown – This person submitted a written comment that reads: Suggestion: Walkway for the Wire Road Bridge – walkers and riders – at least a lane for this. There will not be a sidewalk added to the Wire Road Bridge, see similar question above.

Submitted By:

Michael D. Long, P.E.

ATTACHMENTS:

Presentation
List of Attendees

F.E. Everett Turnpike Widening Project

Public Informational Meeting – Merrimack
May 1, 2018

SIGN IN SHEET

Name	Affiliation	Phone Number	E-Mail
Kyla Foy	Town of Merrimack		
DAWN TUOMALA	TOWN OF MERRIMACK		
Megan Brown	Town of Merrimack		
Bryan Roberts	Public		
Chris Burns	Town of Merrimack		
Carmie Cuccin	" " "		
New Numbered	Town of Merrimack		
MILLIE BRIGHTMAN	" "		
Jain Jenkins	" "		
CHERYL SPRAGUE			
DAVE SCATON	NASHUA		
CHUCK ANNABLE	MERRIMACK		
Cinda Guagliemi	Merrimack		
Brian Gleason	Merrimack		
Brianna McBee	Merrimack		
William Boyd, III	Town Councilor		

F.E. Everett Turnpike Widening Project

Public Informational Meeting – Merrimack
May 1, 2018

SIGN IN SHEET

Name	Affiliation	Phone Number	E-Mail
Yocasta Carozza	Clay St Merrimack		
Shanna Barnes	Merrimack Sch Bd		
STEVEN M. DEWBOW	resident / Merrimack		
Ernest Jeffrey			
LEA STLAURENT	Resident		
Cheryl Newell	Clay St, Merrimack		
Shann P Morrissey	Birches, Merrimack		
Jerry Hill	Resi - Dewbury		
Stephen Champagne	Resident		
Eric Morreale	Resident		
Chris Conway	Resident		
Sean George	Resident		
Peyton Hinkle	Resident		

F.E. Everett Turnpike Widening Project

Public Informational Meeting – Merrimack
May 1, 2018

SIGN IN SHEET

Name	Affiliation	Phone Number	E-Mail
Melanie Sullivan			
R. Jean Hiker			
JERRY GIESECKE	MERRIMACK RESIDENT		
Thomas Koenig	Resident (Merrimack)		
Keith Donahue	resident 26 Clay St		
Rep. Jeanine Natter	Merrimack resident		
Gary LeBlanc	Per.		
Christine Kiss	Merrimack resident		
Rev. Lynne Mentzer	resident		
Nat Fairbanks	resident		
Janet L Cyr	resident		
Brenda Dulong	resident - Merrimack		
John + Theresa Price	resident		
Janet Hill	Resident		
Robert Nuck	ST JAMES UMC		

F.E. Everett Turnpike Widening Project

Public Informational Meeting – Merrimack
May 1, 2018

SIGN IN SHEET

Name	Affiliation	Phone Number	E-Mail
O'Connor			
Sen. Gary Daniels			
Louaine Burns			
Barbara Schwalbe			
Jeff Louye	Clay St		
Joshua + Carol Norman	Cascade circle		
Diane Donahue	Clay street		
SEN DONAHUE			
Peter Maguire			
Danielle Adams	Clay st		
Nick Adams	Clay Street		
SAM DOOLAN	ST JAMES UMC		
Johanna Wenger			
Gregg Lantz	Nashua RPC		