



Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
NASHUA-MERRIMACK-BEDFORD, 13761
MERRIMACK HIGH SCHOOL
38 MCELWAIN RD, MERRIMACK, NH

October 3, 2018

7:00 P.M.

NAMES OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Honorable David K. Wheeler, Chairman
The Honorable Christopher Pappas
The Honorable Joseph D. Kenney

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL PEOPLE PRESENT AT THE MEETING

William Cass, Assistant Commissioner, DOT
Peter Stamnas, Director of Project Development, DOT
Wendy Johnson, Project Manager, Bureau of Highway Design, DOT
Jon Evans, Bureau of Environment, DOT
Rob Faulkner, Project Manager, CHA
Dan Prehemo, Bureau of Highway Design, DOT
Jon Hebert, Bureau of Highway Design, DOT
Michael Licciardi, Bureau of Bridge Design, DOT
Charles Schmidt, Administrator, Bureau of Right of Way, DOT
Paul Coddington, Chief of Administration, Bureau of Right of Way, DOT
John Johnson, Agent Supervisor, Bureau of Right of Way, DOT
Linda Schoffield, Agent, Bureau of Right of Way, DOT
Diane Demakis, Agent, Bureau of Right of Way, DOT
Susan Hubschmann, Hearings Coordinator, Bureau of Right of Way, DOT
John Parrelli, Project Engineer, CHA
Mike Long, Project Manager, McFarland-Johnson
Dave Kull, Bridge Designer, McFarland-Johnson
Jed Merrow, Environmental Scientist, McFarland-Johnson
Deb Mekula, Transcriptionist
Ninety members of the public and two Merrimack Police Officers

DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT MATTER DISCUSSED

Chairman Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm, stated the project and purpose of the hearing.

Wendy Johnson gave an overview of the project.

Rob Faulkner of CHA presented a full description of the project using the wall map.

Wendy Johnson introduced Charles Schmidt from Right-of-Way.

Charles Schmidt gave an overview of the Right of Way acquisition process.

Wendy Johnson introduced Jon Evans from the DOT Bureau of Environment.

Jon Evans presented an overview of the environmental impacts.

Wendy Johnson explained the cost and timeline of the project, and concluded the presentation.

Councilor Wheeler called for any state or local officials to speak.

Nelson Disco of the Merrimack Town Center Committee and the Merrimack Town Planning Board spoke briefly.

Councilor Wheeler then asked for any other elected officials, finding none, Councilor Wheeler called members of the public who had submitted their request to speak.

Janet Cyr of 93A East Ridge Road spoke of concerns about the water treatment in her back yard.

Gary LeBlanc of 2 Ministerial Road spoke of noise concerns and the lack of a noise barrier in his area.

Jack Workman of the Camp Sargent Coop and of 7 Nottingwood Lane spoke about the need for a sound barrier.

Phil Jacobson of 67 East Ridge Road spoke of the need for a sound barrier behind the East Ridge Condominiums.

Derrick Muse of 3 Vanden Road asked if “impacted residents” meant impacted by an easement or by noise. He was answered by state employees that impacted meant by an easement, not noise.

Councilor Wheeler called for Diane LaFontaine who was no longer present.

Michael Gill of 53 Baboosic Lake Road spoke about significant impacts to his property value and concerns that there were no plans for a noise barrier in his area.

Rosemarie Rung of 21 Ministerial Drive thanked Jon Evans for his continued help, spoke of concerns about the sound impacts, recommends sidewalks on Wire Road, and asked for the state’s cooperation to consider recreational areas.

George May of the Souhegan Watershed Association, SoRLAC (Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee), and LMRLAC (Lower Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee) and of 157 Naticook Rd spoke of the need for signs at waterway crossings on the highway identifying the bodies of water.

Gary Krupp of 4 Ministerial Drive spoke of the need for a sound barrier.

Sonya MacDonald of 97 East Ridge Road asked how she would be notified if impacted, wants the noise barrier, is concerned about the water management system, and who should be contacted in case of property damage.

Jamie Page owns Boomer, favors the project, and asked about removing the berm and trees to allow for more commercial visibility.

Paul Micali of 17 Mallard Point Road, Assistant Merrimack Town Manager, raised concerns about graffiti on the sound barriers, sidewalks on Wire Road, and the amount of trees being removed.

Carol Perkins of 1 Nottingwood Lane and president of the Camp Sargent Road Coop is very concerned about the noise, especially from the toll booth, and wants the sound to be measured.

Representative Bob L'Heureux asked about there being a full interchange at Exit 12. Wendy Johnson said that currently there are no plans for this.

Representative L'Heureux said that with state owned property there should at least be plans for an exit ramp, and the berm at Exit 13 creates a serious visibility issue and should be reduced or removed. He said that there has been written communication about this issue that has not been satisfactorily answered.

Wendy Johnson responded that this will be considered, and that they will look into the history of communication about this problem.

Councilor Wheeler assured Representative L'Heureux that these issues will be addressed.

Nat Fairbanks of 5 Sandhill Drive stated that his community was getting a sound barrier because mistakes were found in the original study, and questioned if other mistakes had been made to other area studies. If other mistakes were found, this may benefit other communities.

Representative Richard "Dick" Barry raised questions about traffic mitigation during construction, and asked if any night work was planned.

Wendy Johnson responded that some parts of the project would be done at night, but that particularly noisy operations such as blasting would not.

Another resident asked about moving the toll booth to mitigate noise in her neighborhood.

Brian Roberts of the Clay Street neighborhood thanked Jon Evans for working with his community, and asked what the ongoing communication will be for construction moving forward.

Councilor Wheeler assured him there will be public announcements.

Wendy Johnson suggested he subscribe on the website to get the latest updates.

Councilor Wheeler reminded everyone that they have ten days to submit any other communication and it will be part of the official record.

Councilor Wheeler closed the Public Hearing at 8:22 P.M.

Minutes taken by Susan Hubschmann: _____

Dated: October 3, 2018

Cc: Victoria Sheehan, William Cass, Christopher Waszczuk, Peter Stamnas, all Attendees.

Noted by: Charles R. Schmidt