



Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

101 Walnut Street
Post Office Box 9151
Watertown, MA 02471-9151
Telephone (617) 924-1770
Fax (617) 924-2286

**Meeting
Notes**

Attendees: James R. Stewart, DPW Director
Keith D. Rosenfeld, Town Planner
Wayne Zirolli, Borough Engineer
David Elder, VCOG
Peter Dorpalen, COGCNV
Joe Perrelli, COGCNV
David Head, CT DOT Planning
Ruth Bonsignore, VHB
Soujanya Chalumuri, VHB

Date/Time: 03/18/2010
10:00 am to 11:30 am

Project No.: State Project No. 124-164
VHB Project 41488

Place: Naugatuck Town Hall

Re: Community Outreach Meeting
Borough of Naugatuck

Notes taken by: Ruth Bonsignore, P.E.
Soujanya Chalumuri, P.E.

The purpose of this meeting was to solicit feedback from Naugatuck on the improvement alternatives that are emerging from the Route 8 Deficiencies/Needs Study. The meeting focused on locations within the municipal boundaries.

Prior to the meeting, David Elder asked if VHB had received any comments from Seymour. VHB indicated that they had and that they thought he, on behalf of Valley COG, had participated in generating the comments. VHB will forward the comments received and our drafted response to David after the meeting.

Interchange 25 (Cross Street) – VHB reviewed the proposed roundabout at this location and intersection modifications at the nearby Cotton Hollow road intersection. This concept was generally well received.

Interchange 26 (Route 63) -- The currently preferred alternative for this location involves relocating the northbound off-ramp to form two offset T-type intersections along N. Main Street. This option does not require rebuilding the route 63 bridge. In addition, and as potentially a near-term action, local access to Route 63 via the southbound off-ramp is proposed to be closed to reduce the weaving conflict approaching the signalized intersection. This concept was generally well-received. There was some local concern expressed about losing the shortcut connection to Route 63 but the reason for the proposal was well understood.

Interchange 27 (Maple Street) -- VHB reviewed the proposed improvement concept at Maple Street. Naugatuck officials do not see the value in a proposed shared use path crossing of the Naugatuck River at this location. They suggested eliminating it and allowing the path to continue north along Main Street. VHB was advised to consult the Alta plan for the most recent thinking about the alignment of the Naugatuck Greenway through this location. (COGCNV to provide to VHB) There was also discussion about the lack of parking for businesses on the east side of Route 8 and the

impacts of realigning Oak Street. The town asked if replacement parking was an option under Route 8. As part of the proposed improvements, the southbound on-ramp at Linden Park in the northbound off-ramp N. Main St. would be discontinued. It was explained that these are locations where local traffic is inappropriately using the freeway and creating a dangerous weave situation. The town expressed concerns about local opposition to such proposals, in particular from business owners along N. Main St.

The town is still trying to identify monies for the Maple Street bridge rehabilitation. This will likely happen in the next 6 to 8 months.

The Renaissance project was discussed. It is still on hold, although there is cleanup proceeding on Parcel C and environmental testing underway on Parcel B.

Interchange 28 (Union/North Main Street) -- VHB reviewed two options for improvements interchange 28, with and without reconstruction of the Route 68 bridge. Neither option is ideal. The city expressed concern for access to City Hill Road from Route 68 with the one-way scheme and the potential for cut through traffic via Locus and Worcester Streets. The city also inquired about the potential for municipal parking to be placed in the area of property acquisitions.

Peter noted that Route 68 is identified as a congestion hotspot in prior COGCNV studies. This is related to the volume of traffic on the corridor.

Town officials mentioned that CTDOT was currently working to repair or reconstruct the Route 68 bridge. David Head of CTDOT will look into this project and report back to the team.

Town officials also noted that there is a guide rail/attenuation barrels problem at the Route 8 ramp termini at this location. This observation will be passed along to CTDOT maintenance.

Comments

CTDOT would like to receive formal comments from the borough of Naugatuck on the recommendations under consideration. It was determined that Keith would coordinate the town's comments to the study team. Ruth expressed a desire to receive their comments by the end of the month. If that schedule is infeasible, then we would look to address their comments as a follow-up to Technical Memorandum #2. Town indicated that they would do their best to get feedback to the team.

Action items

- VHB to forward the Town of Seymour comments and responses to Valley COG.
- COGCNV to provide to VHB the Alta alignment plans for the Naugatuck Greenway through the corridor.
- VHB to forward Greenway concepts along Route 42 in Beacon Falls to COGCNV.
- CTDOT will check on the status of the Route 68 bridge project and report back.
- Naugatuck officials would try to caucus and develop their formal comments on the candidate Route 8 study recommendations over the next two weeks.

[Post meeting note: Study comments were [received from the Borough of Naugatuck on Technical Memorandum #1 and the associated plans on April 1, 2010].