

November 18, 2005

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BUREAU OF HIGHWAY DESIGN

CONFERENCE REPORT

PROJECT: BEDFORD
X-A-000(143)
13953
NH Route 101

DATE OF CONFERENCE: October 28, 2005

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: Rm 185 (Commission's Conference Room)

| ATTENDED BY: | <u>NHDOT</u> | <u>Town of Bedford</u> | <u>VHB</u> |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| | C. Murray | Keith. Hickey | Tony. Grande |
| | J. Brillhart | Karen. White | Marty. Kennedy |
| | J. Moore | Police Chief Dave. Bailey | |
| | W. Cass | | |
| | W. Oldenburg | | |
| | J Corcoran | | |
| | J. Kallfelz | | |

SUBJECT: Discuss possible interim improvements at the Meeting House Road and Constitution Drive intersection with Route 101, and the status of high school access/connector road.

NOTES ON CONFERENCE:

N. Mayville began the meeting referring to the Town of Bedford's concern that the scheduled project for improvements to NH Route 101 from NH Route 114 to Wallace Road has been moved back from FY 2009 to FY 2014 in the State's ten year Transportation Improvement Program. The Town has asked the Department to consider interim improvements (2008/2009) on Route 101 for the westbound approach to the Constitution Drive intersection (add second westbound through lane) and at the Meeting House Road intersection (provide a 5-lane section). N. Mayville noted Traffic Bureau (J. Corcoran) has developed a concept for the Constitution Drive approach and Highway Design (J. Kallfelz) has evaluated several options at Meeting House Road.

J. Corcoran presented the proposed westbound improvements approaching Constitution Drive. The existing two-lane westbound movement at the Route 114 intersection currently necks down to a single through lane east of Constitution Drive. A second through lane could be carried through the Constitution Drive intersection with minor widening. The anticipated westbound lane widths would be 11 feet and the shoulder would vary between 2 - 4 feet. The existing 4' painted median on Route 101 at Constitution Drive would be removed and the raised median east of the intersection would be shortened 450 feet. The existing overhead sign structure and guardrail, east of Constitution Drive, would not be impacted. Widening would be done by overlaying the existing wide gravel shoulder. Step box widening is not

expected. Existing westbound Route 101 would be overlaid to facilitate new pavement markings. The existing northwest mast arm base would require relocation and the mast arm replaced with one supplied by Traffic Bureau. Work would be performed by District 5 Maintenance and Traffic Bureau. The anticipated cost, if implemented by State forces, to be less than \$100,000. The Department could implement this concept during spring/summer 2006.

J. Kallfelz presented several interim options for Route 101 at the Meeting House Road intersection. First option is to widen Route 101 to provide two 11-foot through lanes in both directions and an 11-foot center left turn lane. Approximately 10 feet of step box widening would be needed on both sides of Route 101. Existing pavement is 44 feet wide (12' lanes/10' shoulders). The existing traffic signal would require full replacement. Traffic operations with a 5-lane section would improve the existing peak hour (PM) level-of-service (LOS) of F (delay greater than 100 seconds) to LOS of C (delay of approximately 35 seconds). No improvements to Meeting House Road are proposed with this option. Additional right-of-way (ROW) is not required. Several utility poles would need to be relocated. The approximate construction cost for this option is \$750,000. The Five-lane section reflects the 2003 corridor study as the ultimate fix, minus the amenities of the 20-foot raised median, 5-foot sidewalks, and landscaping.

J. Kallfelz noted a second consideration would be to widen Meeting House Road to provide an exclusive 11-foot wide left turn lane and a shared 11-foot wide through/right lane on both approaches. Overall LOS of the intersection would improve an additional 5 to 10 seconds (with option 1). ROW along the east side of Meeting House Road will be required and several more utility poles would need to be relocated. Widening Meeting House Road would add a minimum of \$100,000 to the construction cost of the first option.

A third option to provide a four-lane section (11-foot shared through/left and 11-foot shared through/right, both directions) with 2-foot shoulder was considered. The LOS would improve when compared to the existing conditions however turning vehicles (particularly lefts) could significantly degrade traffic flow. No improvement to Meeting House would be proposed. The existing traffic signals were assumed to remain. Minor widening (2-feet both side of Route 101) is required. The existing road surface would be overlaid. No utility relocation or ROW is expected. This option is envisioned as a maintenance (District 5) fix. The rough construction cost estimate is less than \$250,000.

The Department would consider implementing interim improvements at Meeting House Road possibly during the construction season 2007 (likely the four-lane option because of limited betterment funds).

Tony Grande (VHB) presented the status of design for the Nashua Road overpass and high school access/connector road (Nashua Road to Wallace Road). Several connections at both Wallace Road and Nashua Road are in consideration. VHB has taken the current design to a public informational meeting with the Town (10/24/05).

DISCUSSION:

The Town of Bedford thanked the Department for investigating the options. Chief Bailey supported the Constitution Drive concept and K. Hickey indicated that additional review with the Town of Bedford is unlikely.

Chief Bailey indicated that, to address the concerns of the Town both interim improvements should be implemented at the same time and preferably during 2006. Chief Bailey, as well as the other attending

Bedford officials, indicated the preference for the 5-lane section at the Meeting House Road intersection with an exclusive left turn lane on Meeting House Road.

J. Brillhart, acknowledge the Chief's request, but noted limited betterment funds are available and therefore interim improvements would likely be constructed in separate years. Also, because of the scope and cost of the 5-lane section (at Meeting House Road) the four-lane section option would be considered an interim fix.

K. Hickey noted in lieu of the new high school being under construction (opening 2007), potential roadway improvements at Nashua Road (Overpass and the Connector Road) and the bonding to build such, could the Town of Bedford consider advance constructing the Meeting House road interim improvements (5-lane section and widening to Meeting House Road)? Could a more detailed (accurate) estimate for the 5-lanes section be provided?

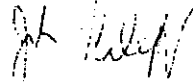
A detailed estimate including design, ROW, and construction would be done. N. Mayville indicated the Town could municipally manage the project and the necessary information could be provided.

N. Mayville indicated the Department was considering scheduling a public officials meeting for the ultimate Route 101 project during December 2005, there was discussion that concluded that if the ultimate project had been moved back (2014), the public officials meeting on the ultimate improvements was not so urgent.

K. Hickey and K. White suggested holding a public officials meeting regarding the interim work and noted that the interim improvements would be beneficial to Town and the opening of the new high school, especially if the bonding were not approved for the Nashua Road overpass or the connector road between Nashua and Wallace Road.

A public officials meeting regarding interim improvements will be set up by the Town tentatively scheduled for December 12, 2005. (Note: Subsequently, the meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 7:00 pm with the Town Council and School Board). DOT will attend to present the possible interim improvements at Meeting House Road and Constitution Drive.

Submitted by:



John Kallfelz, P.E.
Preliminary Design

JPK/jpk

NOTED BY: W. Oldenburg, N. Mayville

cc: J. Brillhart
N. Mayville
J. Corcoran
Town of Bedford (Keith Hickey)