

April 12, 2019

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

CONFERENCE REPORT

PROJECT: Dover - Somersworth - Rochester 29604
NH Route 108 Complete Streets Improvement Project

DATE OF CONFERENCE: March 18, 2019

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: Dover Middle School, 16 Daley Drive, Dover, NH

ATTENDED:

NHDOT

Wendy Johnson
William Lambert
Tony King
Trent Zanes

MJ Team

Gene McCarthy
Scott Ozana
Christine Perron
Jennifer Zorn

34 people signed in. Approximately 10 other people attended but did not sign in (see attached sign-in sheets).

SUBJECT: Public Listening Session

NOTES ON CONFERENCE:

G. McCarthy and W. Johnson provided a brief presentation of the project which involves the study of improvements to NH Route 108 from the intersection of NH Route 9/Indian Brook Drive in Dover to Innovation Drive in Rochester, a distance of approximately 5 miles. NH Route 108 is generally two lanes with variable width shoulders through the project area. Localized improvements have been made in recent decades at key intersections and some commercial developments to add turning lanes, shoulders, and traffic signals. However, safety and mobility issues remain a concern.

The Listening Session began with a formal presentation beginning at approximately 7:00 PM (presentation attached). At approximately 7:30 PM the attendees were separated into five discussion groups, each with a facilitator from the project team. Three questions were asked of the discussion group and notes were taken by a member of the group. The questions were:

1. What do you think are the problems/challenges in the project corridor?
2. What do you think is missing in the project corridor?
3. What do you think are the opportunities in the project corridor?

Approximately 15 minutes of time was allocated for each question. In addition, each group was provided a Project Area Map that showed the project corridor on an aerial photo and noted key features existing in the corridor. The groups were encouraged to use the map as a template for drawing ideas and providing graphical input. At the conclusion of the discussion group session, one member of each group provided a brief summary to all attendees. The meeting concluded before 9:00 PM.

Below is a summary of the input received on each of the three questions from the discussion groups.

Question 1: What do you think are the problems/challenges in the project corridor?

- Traffic enforcement
- Crosswalk control is desired
- Driveways are too close to intersections
- Overall traffic from 3 PM to 4:30 PM and later in the northbound direction
- Growth within the corridor
- Bus shelters and pull-outs are desired
- No bike lanes in either direction
- Sidewalks are desired
- Flooding identified near Enterprise Drive
- Inconsistent street lights
- Development
- Speeding
- Driver inattention
- Traffic congestion at peak hours
- Ingress is difficult turning onto Route 108
- Buses stop the flow of traffic and pedestrian danger for exiting bus
- No bike lane/sidewalks
- Lane merges
- Mixed residential and commercial uses
- “Dumb” traffic lights versus intelligent traffic signals that can be coordinated
- Business access
- Roadway throughout the corridor is too narrow
- School bus safety
- No safe crossing
- Is the project even needed?
- Too much traffic
- Eliminate tolls on NH Route 16
- Lack of bicycle and pedestrian access along the corridor
- Lack of bus pull outs and pedestrian crossings
- Limited by budget
- Taper issue (or lane drop) at Dover Marine on the northbound side that is too short

- Left turns in either direction or left turns are desired at the car dealerships
- Visibility between the Works and Somersworth Nissan
- Buses stopping causes traffic back up
- Intersection of NH Route 108 and West High Street/White house Road add free right turns north and south
- Vertical visibility across Haven Hill
- Turn issue on to Haven Hill Road – Northbound
- Extend taper after lights at airport - Northbound
- Coordinate new water line with roadway work
- Add connection to NH Route 16B
- Turning against traffic traveling NH Route 108
- No median at Dover Marine
- Too much distance for pedestrian crossing at Dover Marine
- Traffic back up on Haven Hill

Question 2: What do you think is missing in the project corridor?

- Bike lanes in both directions are desired
- Sidewalks
- Roundabouts (possibly)
- Road width? Turn lanes?
- Calming of traffic
- Drainage improvements
- Uniformity
- Concern for the private residences
- Bike lanes and sidewalks
- Bus pullouts/inlets
- Intelligent technology: signals and ITS
- Additional lanes with consistent width
- Turning lanes
- Safe pedestrian crossings
- Turn lanes (center lane)
- Sync traffic lights better
- Refuge island for pedestrians
- Four-way stop at intersection of Blackwater/NH Route 108

Question 3: What do you think are the opportunities in the project corridor?

- More use by Transit and bicycles
- Landscaping (trees, grasses, lighting, ornamental flags)
- Access Management design features
- Design the road and businesses together

- Connect bus stops and street crossings
- Increase walkability for business economic development
- Make more appealing to bicycles and pedestrians
- Side paths for bicycles and pedestrians
- Use old Rochester Road for bicycles and sidewalks
- Shared lanes where warranted
- 4-way stops at Blackwater/108
- Narrow travel lanes
- Bus shelters

EMAIL/PHONE COMMENTS RECEIVED.

The following are direct comments received from members of public who were unable to attend the Listening Session.

- A left turn lane at Willand Road is needed.
- More formalized bus stops would be appropriate (but there may be a permitting process).
- Right-hand-turn only lanes should be added and making sure to have it made obvious to automobile traffic that cyclists can stay in the straight-lane without confusing people.
- Regarding the intersection of 108 and West High Street, perpendicular intersections are much safer than "Y" intersections.
- Having read about past fatal automobile accidents at the intersection of Blackwater Road and Old Dover Road as a "Y" intersection, DOT is urged to replace such dangerous intersections with perpendicular intersections ASAP.
- Add a light at the end of the connector road between High Street (Rt 9) and 108. With the congestion on both roads, more and more people are using the connector and getting out of there, especially to go southbound, is dangerous.
- The most dangerous part that I'm aware of and experience frequently on the 108 corridor is the highly used shortcut onto Willand Drive (to Commercial Drive) which leads to Walmart and Home Depot. It is near impossible for traffic turning left by entering Willand Drive from 108 going south and those exiting out of Willand Drive onto 108 south at the same time (or trying to 'beat' each other and cutting one off). There is such heavy traffic all day, and the delays so long, that one really does take a huge risk in darting into the oncoming traffic from both ways. A backup onto Willand Drive can be as long as 5 minutes (the more timid the driver, the longer the wait).

The speed is also a factor - most people are going 40mph in that area. But reducing the speed is not the issue - it's the lack of a traffic light as every vehicle going 108 south is trying to go around those that are turning left onto Willand Drive. There is currently no center lane. Those trying to exit Willand Drive also turning left cannot get into the lane safely. Tempers flare as the drivers from 108 South have the right of way and cut off those waiting quite a while to exit and go south, so the traffic backs up on Willand Drive.

There is going to be a deadly accident there. Not if, but when. I don't know if widening the lanes to allow for a center turning lane would help because you still have the issue of

both trying to enter and exit Willand Drive at the same time. I know it would be inconvenient to put a traffic light there (and not a flashing red/yellow), but I feel a traffic light is very much warranted. It is that busy and that frustrating. As both Willand and Commercial Drives develop even further with more businesses and perhaps more tractor trailer trucks making deliveries, there will be more traffic on those side roads. It has increased so much to avoid going through Week's Crossing to get over to Route 9 and vice-versa to 108.

- The possible widening and the addition of turn lanes and bicycle lanes could impacts my property and make it make it more difficult to exit my driveway. At this time, it takes about 5 minutes to leave my driveway now. Speed is a concern, as people won't need to slow down to go around a turning vehicle any more. Tree clearing is a concern to accommodate any widening or utility pole relocation. Please widen on the west side of the roadway only.

Submitted By:



Jennifer L. Zorn, AICP

ATTACHMENTS:

Presentation

Sign-in sheets

***NH Route 108 Complete Streets Improvements
Dover-Somersworth-Rochester 29604***

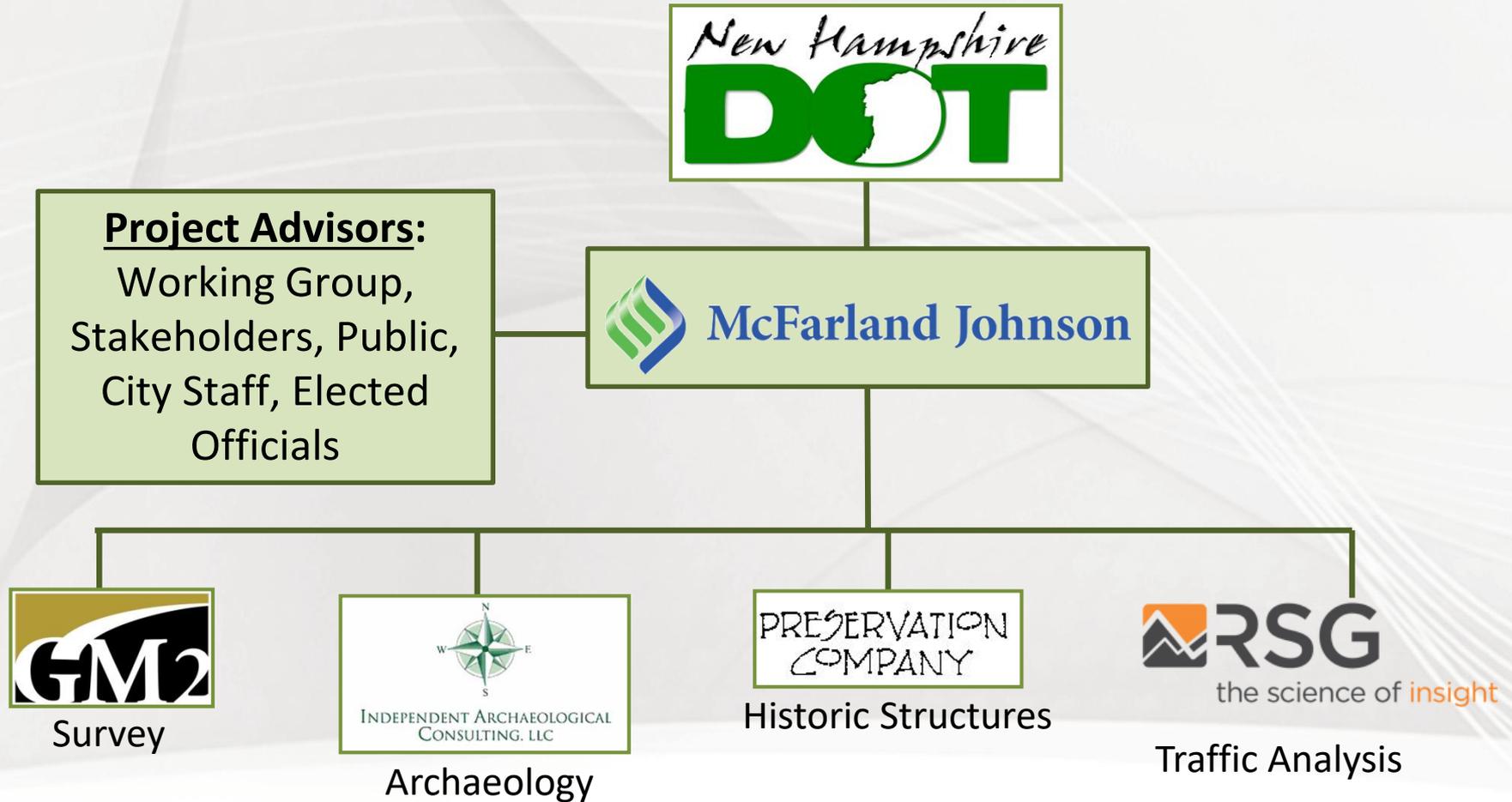
**Public Listening
Session**

March 18, 2019

Agenda

- Opening / Introductions
- Project Overview & Project Limits
- “Complete Street”
- Small Group Discussion
- Project Schedule
- Questions
- Adjourn

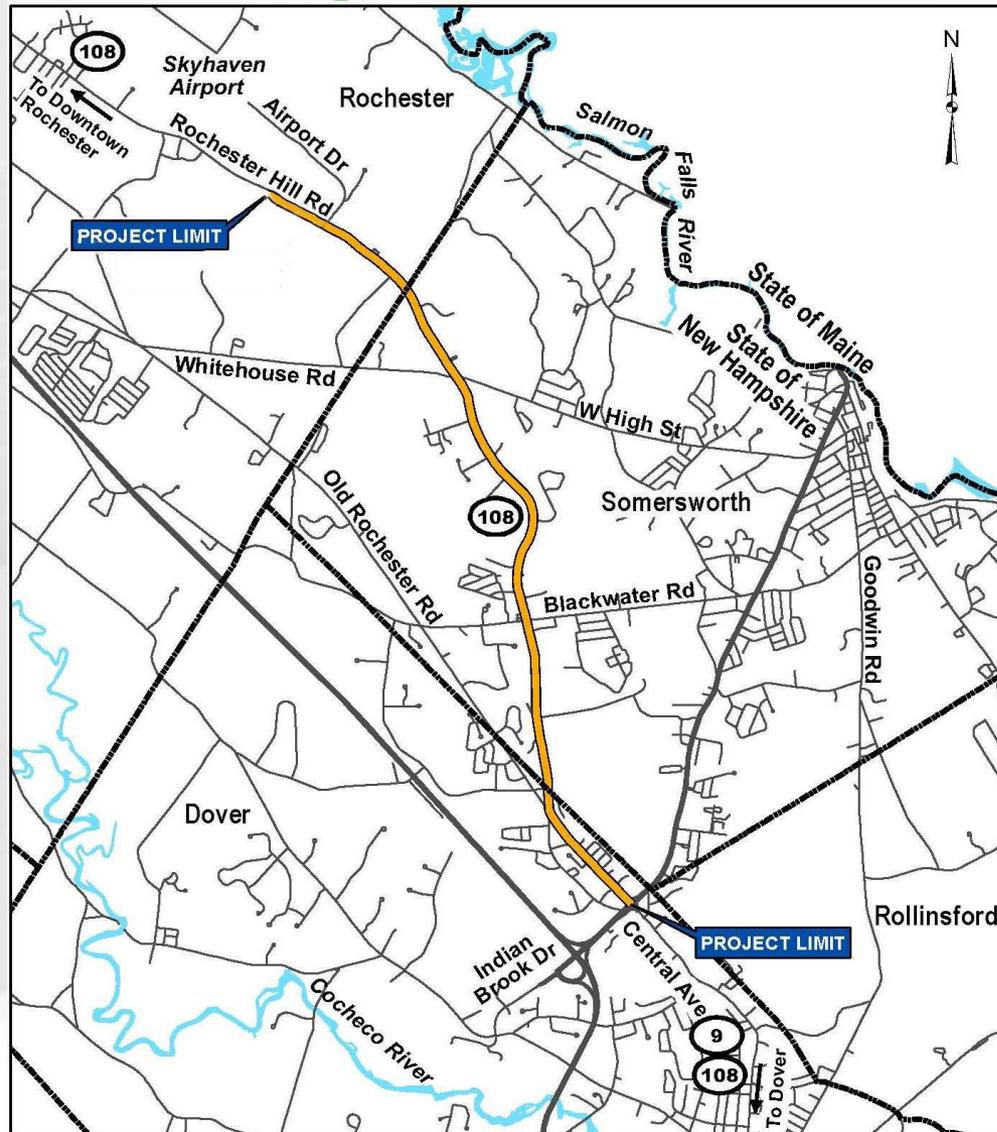
Project Team



Working Group

Name/Title	Affiliation
Rad Nichols , Executive Director	COAST Bus
Michael Williams , Director of Operations	COAST Bus
Chris Parker , Asst City Manager: Director of Planning and Strategic Initiatives	City of Dover
Gretchen Young , Asst City Engineer	City of Dover
Peter Nourse , Director of Public Works	City of Rochester
Seth Creighton , Chief Planner	City of Rochester
Michael Bezanson , City Engineer	City of Rochester
Robert Belmore , City Manager	City of Somersworth
Shanna Saunders , Director of Development Services	City of Somersworth
Mike Bobinsky , Director Public Works	City of Somersworth
Jen Czyz , Executive Director	Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Colin Lentz , Sr. Transportation Planner	Strafford Regional Planning Commission
James Burdin , Regional Economic Development Planner	Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Project Limits



Complete Streets

A Complete Street is a street designed for all users independent of their age or ability and regardless of whether they travel by car, bus, train, bicycle or walk.



Complete Streets Example



Complete Streets Example



Complete Streets Example



**Making
our streets
complete**



Small Group Discussion



Question #1

What do you think are the problems / challenges in the project corridor?

Small Group Discussion



Question #2

What do you think is missing in the project corridor?

Small Group Discussion



Question #3
What do you think are the opportunities in the project corridor?

Project Schedule

Spring 2019 to Winter 2020

- Public Meetings / Walking Tours
- Develop Design Alternatives
- Research Environmental Resources
- Evaluate Design Alternatives
- Evaluate Environmental Impacts
- Publish Environmental Document

Spring 2021 to Fall 2023

- Public Hearing
- Final Design
- Right of Way Acquisitions / Easements
- Environmental Permitting

Summer 2024

Anticipated Start of Construction

Questions / Comments

Project Contact:

Wendy Johnson, PE
NHDOT Project Manager
(603) 271-2171

Wendy.Johnson@dot.nh.gov

www.108TriCityCompleteStreets.com

NH Route 108 Complete Streets Improvements 29604

Listening Session

March 18, 2019

SIGN IN SHEET

Name	City Affiliation	Phone Number	E-Mail
James Cole	Dover		
Sherald Cozzani	DOVER		
Ken Plante	Somersworth		
Ken Wilman	Dover		
DAN BARI FAUDI	DOVER		
Chin Pahn	Dover		
Gary Merrin	Dover		
Grethun Jones	Dover		
WILLIAM M. KENNEDY	DOVER		
Randall Cobb	Somersworth		
Bill Lambert	NHDOT		
STEPHEN P. PIER	DOVER RESIDENT		
MIKE HUMKEL	DOVER		
VASANT T. DASS	DOVER		
JOHN GRAMM AK	RAYMOND		

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SIGN IN SHEET

Name	City Affiliation	Phone Number	E-Mail
Frank Merrill	Dover Marine		
Ollie Lachance	Resident Home Owner		
John Hall	Public Bank		
George Larrazus	Strafford Apple Co		
DAN HUGHES	HOME OWNER		
GARY DeGolfmaeder	Greater Somers Comm. Board		
Len Watten	Dover		
Deb Forbes	Somers		
Roxanne Roy	Dover / Somers		
Gay Lemay	Somersworth - Public works		
JOHN STRAIGHT	DOVER, NH		
Marn Speidel - Sgt.	Dover - City Police		
Rachel Coughlin	Student - VNH		

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Name	City Affiliation	Phone Number	E-Mail
Brandon Smith	Somersworth		
TODD LARSON TODD'S	SOMERSWORTH		
DAVID A. NESS, DMD	Somersworth		
Deb Harrigan	Dover		
Dianne Ness	Somersworth business		

NH Route 108 Complete Streets Improvements 29604

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SIGN IN SHEET

<u>Name</u>	<u>City Affiliation</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Claire Blaisdel	Somersworth		
David Loadry	Dora		