

MEETING NOTES

By: Jennifer Williams
Date: February 13, 2006
Subject: North Main Street Corridor Study (GP JN 1227)
Committee Meeting to Review Draft Final Report
Attendance: Gary Briggs, Jerry Freeman, Joel Dearborn, David Cote, Rob Kenerson, Frank Higgins,
Richard Gray, Tom Gorrill, Jennifer Williams
Distribution: Attendees, Linda Johns, Gail Kelly

The purpose of this meeting was to review the draft of the final report. Committee members had received the report prior to the meeting. The committee went through the report, section by section, to comment on content, grammar, etc. Those notes will all be incorporated into the final document. Additional discussion throughout the meeting included the following:

1. Jerry Freeman noted that truck weight limits are still an issue of concern. He would like to see in a comment to that effect in the report, similar to the comment related to the extension of I-395. The committee agreed with the suggestion.
2. It was noted that the signals at State Street, Center Street, and Penobscot Square are connected to a master controller in Bangor.
3. A possible short-term fix for the Parker Street intersection is to move the utility pole located between the snack shack and the vacant property. This could possibly create the width for a bypass lane around traffic turning left onto Parker Street.
4. The City should consider acquiring the building on the corner of Union Street and North Main Street.
5. Frank indicated that there are probably several buildings the City will need to acquire for either right-of-way needs or future off-street parking accommodations.
6. Parking on Betton Street and Penobscot Street currently creates problems and makes the roadways narrow. We cannot direct more traffic onto these streets without first addressing the parking problems.
7. There is currently a problem of northbound traffic queuing at the State Street intersection. The suggestion was made that signage indicating two through lanes, and directing slower traffic to keep right may be beneficial. Additionally, directional signage for I-95 and I-395 should be installed at the State Street intersection for southbound traffic.
8. There was considerable discussion on the pros and cons of making Center Street one-way or right in only, but with two-way traffic to just before North Main Street. Maintaining the two-way traffic will still allow access to the existing businesses. These comments will all be added to the discussion of Improvement Alternative 7.
9. Improvement Alternative 8 should also consider making Union Street right in/right out only from North Main Street, rather than a one-way from North Main Street to East Summer Street.
10. The committee would like to see Improvement Alternative 9 discussed in more depth and added to the Executive Summary.

11. Improvement Alternative 10 needs to be clarified a bit more; the left turn lane is already in place. The improvement is actually the addition of a protected left turn phase in the signal operations.
12. The State Street and North Main Street intersection needs an additional crosswalk, preferably across the southerly leg of North Main Street to connect to the existing crosswalk across State Street. This intersection would be a good location for the pedestrian countdown signals.
13. The committee would like to see more discussion of the combinations of improvement alternatives in the Executive Summary.
14. The phasing plan for implementation should be categorized according to the following time frames:
 - a. Immediate improvements (ie. paint)
 - b. Short-Term (2008-2009 Biennium)
 - c. Long-Term (2010 and beyond)

The Public Meeting was tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 27th, at 7:00PM, at which time the Draft Final Report will be presented. Gary volunteered to participate in the presentation. Frank will confirm the meeting date, time and location.