



Meeting Notes

Place: Hampton Falls Town Hall

Date: April 5, 2021

Notes Taken by: P. Blum

Project #: 52575.07

Re: Hampton Falls Corridor Study
#29610

Advisory Committee Attendees:

Todd Santora, Planning Board	Keith Webster, Dodge's Agway	Tobey Reynolds, NHDOT
Mark Lane, Select Board	Bill Savage, Coastal Living Paint & Hardware	Marty Kennedy, VHB,
Greg Parish, School Board	Beverly Mutrie, Heritage Commission	Philip Blum, VHB
Shawn Hanson, Conservation Comm.	Dave Walker, RPC	

Mr. Kennedy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the first Advisory Committee meeting for the Hampton Falls Corridor Study. After having everyone introduce themselves, Mr. Kennedy proceeded to discuss the role of the Project Advisory Committee including the following:

- Committee members are expected to represent and serve as a liaison to the community.
- The Committee serves in an advisory role and is not a decision-making body. However, as a group, the Committee will be asked to seek consensus.
- Committee members are asked to work as a team, respect all opinions and refrain from monopolizing the conversation.
- Expect approximately five Committee meetings over the next 8 months.
- We'll send out a notice of the meeting, agenda, and any review material by e-mail in advance of each meeting.
- Expect meetings to go between 1 and 2 hours. We start meetings on time and we end them on time.

Mr. Kennedy continued with a brief overview of the study purpose and study schedule, noting that in addition to the Advisory Committee meetings we intend to hold 3 public informational meetings. Mr. Kennedy described the study corridor limits and discussed various components of the study. Using a 24-hour traffic volume bar chart graphic, Mr. Kennedy shared some thoughts on the traffic flow characteristics of Route 1.

The following questions and comments were discussed during and after the presentation:

1. Whose meetings are these? ANSWER: The NHDOT is facilitating these meetings. The public is welcome to attend and listen-in, but active participation in the meetings is reserved for Committee members. Time can be allocated at the end of the meeting for questions/comments from non-Committee members.
2. Do we need to follow Right-to-Know laws? ANSWER: Yes, these meetings are open to the public. A committee member stated they can use the town's website and the local Post Office to post information. Meeting notes and other information will also be posted to the NHDOT's website.
3. Is this study on the 10-year plan? ANSWER: This study project was added to the 10-year plan in 2017. In the current 10-year plan 2021-2030 this study project does not appear because the funding is provided prior to

2 Bedford Farms Drive
Suite 200
Bedford, NH 03110-6532
P 603.391.3900

2021. The purpose of this study is to identify a potential project or projects that can be added to the next 10-year planning cycle.

4. Are there any immediate improvements that can be done prior to the 10-year plan? ANSWER: That depends on the solutions developed. If large scale roadway improvements are proposed, those would likely need to be placed on the 10-year plan. Short-term actions (sidewalks, signal timing enhancements, etc.) could potentially be funded under other programs. The study will consider both long-term and short-term potential actions.
5. How much consideration is given to plans that the town may have outside of the planning study? ANSWER: NHDOT would work closely with the town to coordinate any overlapping projects.
6. Are there other traffic volume counts besides the counts that were taken in August 2020? Does the DOT have any? ANSWER: NHDOT has permanent count stations along Route 1. The RPC also conducts traffic volume counts and retains traffic volume data throughout the region. The study team has access to all of this data. It was noted that traffic volume growth, since the previous planning study was conducted, has been relatively modest.
7. If a deal was negotiated with Seabrook on a sewer line project, could any project that comes out of this study be expedited so the two projects could be constructed at the same time? ANSWER: Moving a project up in the 10-year plan is difficult. It's not impossible, but once priorities are set in a certain year it's difficult to move projects up as that would result in other projects from other towns moving out to different years due to a fixed funding for each year. Nevertheless, the NHDOT would, where possible, try to coordinate its construction projects with planned town projects.
8. How much has COVID affected traffic counts? What factor was used to account for this in the August 2020 counts? The August 2020 counts were adjusted (increased) by approximately 14% to account for reduced travel during this period of COVID. The adjustment factor was determined by comparing traffic volumes to the same period during the previous year.
9. Could increasing the capacity and efficient flow of traffic on Route 1 result in an increase in volume as motorists, who currently avoid the corridor, might be drawn to the corridor. ANSWER: That could happen. Motorists tend to choose routes that are less congested and provide shorter travel times. Some motorists might be using local roads today to avoid congestion and delays on the corridor. Upgrading the corridor could have the benefit of reducing travel on local roads.
10. Does the DOT anticipate any additional sources of revenue coming that would be put into the 10-year plan and what percentage of the funding comes from state resources? ANSWER: Projects on the 10-year plan are primarily federal funded. Revenue sources from the State, including the State gas tax and registration fees, goes into the Highway Fund and the State funds the Betterment program with Highway Fund dollars. These funds are traditionally used for smaller maintenance related projects such as paving or culvert projects. These funds are not typically used for expansion projects.

11. Will the corridor study include a fiscal impact study of the project's impact on the community? ANSWER: No, this is a planning study. We will prepare planning level construction cost estimates to compare alternatives, but there will not be a detailed fiscal impact evaluation.
12. Are there any public community events that a display could be set up at to get feedback on the study? ANSWER: There is a Concerts on the Common series that takes place on Thursday nights. This may be a good opportunity for public engagement.
13. Are there any public participation/engagement tools on the advisory committee's website? ANSWER: Yes, there is the ability to send out information as a listserv to a group of subscribed emails. There is also the Friends of Hampton Falls social media page.