

RT 109 Design Committee  
Meeting Minutes March 10, 2015

Medway Sr. Center, 7:00 pm

Members Present: Dennis Crowley, Chair  
Dan Hooper  
Matt Buckley  
Paul Yorkis

Other Attendees: Dave D'Amico, Medway DPS  
Geoff Howie, GPI

1. Minutes for September 24, 2014 and December 9, 2014 were approved.
2. Discussed schedule. MassDOT projected to bid the work in September, 2015. Currently two components of the project schedule are in progress, design and right-of-way. Design is behind schedule slightly due to both excessively long reviews by the State and internal design details. Major hurdles for the design have recently cleared. Most notable is the utility and constructability review. On-site meetings with MassDOT, Verizon, Eversource, and Comcast have cleared remaining design issues. The 100% design submission will occur in two weeks. Some slack is still forecasted in the design schedule.

ROW is also ready to proceed. MassDOT staff have cleared the project to proceed. They have also approved a revised format for the appraisals. 100% ROW plans will be complete in less than one week. MassDOT review has been assured within two weeks after submission of the ROW plans. Title work and preliminary appraisal updates have begun. ROW is considered critical path and remains on schedule for completion in late August.

3. Mr. Crowley was concerned about traffic patterns during construction. He wants assurance that the contractor will retain two lanes of open traffic throughout the project and a phased approach to the construction that limits the extent of the work at any one time. Mr. Howie explained that there are provisions in the specifications to assure both of these as much as practical. MassDOT requires the contractor to develop plan specifics for traffic control in conjunction with them and local authority. Some portions of RT 109 will have one lane travel which is unavoidable in the western portion of the project. However, construction hours will be limited to ensure two lane traffic during commuting hours. Web site notifications, sign boards, and possible camera streams were discussed to inform the public during construction.
4. The entrance to Choate Park was discussed. Mr. Howie, Mr. D'Amico, and Mr. Hooper all presented plans that were very similar in nature. The Committee endorsed the concepts as presented. The Mr. Hooper, Mr. Buckley, and Mr. Yorkis had met on-site to develop concepts. They will continue to work with Mr. Howie and Copley-Wolfe to develop a final plan.
5. The Mechanic Street pocket park and other potential pocket parks were discussed. Mechanic Street is to be substantially complete by June 30, 2015. Some grant funds are available that must be used before this date. The plan is to perform the work to a point where the RT 109 project can blend into it. A similar concept is proposed for other locations if they can be

identified. Mr. Yorkis volunteered to approach three or four property owners along the route to determine if they have any interest in a possible pocket park on their property.

**Motion to have Mr. Yorkis approach property owners for possible pocket park sites. A process to allow for Town easements and responsibility will need to be developed through the Board of Selectmen for any sites identified. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Discussed the latest Tri-Valley Commons proposal. Previously the Committee had approved a two way left turn lane along this area in anticipation of future development. It appears that the current proposal can work within that framework. Any changes requested or required by the Planning & Economic Development Board will be the responsibility of the applicant.
7. The Committee revisited its position on ornamental traffic signals. Mr. D'Amico and Mr. Howie felt that the current plan to have all the traffic signals ornamental and fully paid for by the State is not likely to succeed. The State has been very firm in not approving such requests. A good case can be made for the signals at or near the Town's historical district. The three signals east of those are in the business district. Given other items that the Town will want to urge State support for such as street lights and stone walls, the Town may want to temper its initial request. This may put the Town in a better negotiating position.

**Motion to have all six traffic signals with an ornamental design, but request only Winthrop, Choate, and Highland be included for State funding. The others would be non-participatory items with upgrade costs beyond standard equipment paid for by the Town. Motion passed unanimously.**

Final design for street lights was presented.

**Motion to accept the street light as presented in plan Halophane plan #TSG008780 dated 02/04/15 with addition of ball finial. Motion passed unanimously.**

8. Mr. Yorkis presented to the Committee that the State has accepted signage at Winthrop Street that will direct west bound traffic to Holliston via Winthrop Street. The MassDOT felt that east bound signage was not necessary as most traffic heading for Holliston would have already proceeded to RT 126.
9. Mr. Yorkis discussed the Medway Affordable Housing Trust's acquisition of the former AmVets property on Cutler Street. The property has a WWII era gun and a set of cannon balls at the entrance. The MHHT has no need for these items. Mr. Yorkis feels that the cannon balls could be used at a pocket park or other Town own parks. The MAHT requires a letter from the Committee to take possession of these items. The gun is being pursued by another group in Town and is not wanted for parks.

**Motion to have Mr. D'Amico craft a letter on the behalf of the RT 109 Committee to the Medway Affordable Housing Trust to request possession of the cannon balls for Town purposes. Motion passed unanimously.**

10. Mr. D'Amico proposed that the community sign at Choate Park be changed to an electronic sign board. He presented newer technologies using high resolution panels that can easily replicate the current board and be housed in a similar style cabinet. The existing board is limited in the messages it can provide and cumbersome for people to place messages. An electronic sign could be programmed from an office and could present multiple pages of information. However, a change in zoning by-law or a variance will be needed to proceed. The Committee was interested in the concept and wishes to explore it further at the next meeting.
  
11. The Committee went through a list of potential non-participatory items prepared by Mr. Howie. Mr. Howie described that some of the items have a good chance of being funded by MassDOT and others less so. Total potential exposure to the Town is over \$1.2 million. This figure includes \$750,000 in street light costs which the Committee feels very strongly should be included in the State's project budget. Other items will be discussed with the MassDOT after the 100% design and estimates are submitted.

**Next meeting planned for April 8, 2015. Items to include project schedule, Choate Park entrance, and the community sign.**

Adjourn at 9:30 pm.