

RT 109 Design Committee
Meeting Minutes December 9, 2014

Medway Sr. Center, 7:00 pm

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

Other Attendees: Tom Holder, Medway DPS
Dave D'Amico, Medway DPS
Geoff Howie, GPI
John Diaz, GPI

1. No minutes approved.
2. Geoff Howie briefed the Committee on the current project budget. Latest figure is \$12.3 million. That figure is supported by the Transportation Improvement Project State funding at present. Several comments were received from MassDOT that discuss several items that may not be funded by the State. Mr. D'Amico reported that some of these were discussed at a comment review meeting held with MassDOT on December 8th attended by Mr. Howie, Mr. Diaz, and himself. Although rationale for State funding of these items was presented, MassDOT personnel did not appear concerned. Mr. D'Amico believes that the appropriate people were not present to discuss these issues in depth.

Mr. Yorkis pointed out that all of the State & Federal congressional delegates that helped with funding initiatives early in the project are still in office. He can work with them to include funding for items if necessary. No action is needed at this time..

3. Mr. Howie presented a schedule summary to the Committee as requested. This schedule shows a 100% design submission in January. Current concerns revolve around the Notice of Intent submission to the Medway Conservation Commission, final utility coordination meeting, and the ROW taking process. ROW is the most demanding task at present. Final submissions are scheduled for July, 2015 at present. Currently awaiting comments from MassDOT for environmental and cultural issues. These are needed to allow the ROW process to proceed.
4. GPI presented three alternatives for left turn movements between the Charles River Bank and the Medway Shopping Center entrance. These are:
 - a. Added left turn lanes as shown on the 75% design plans. Currently Charles River Bank and Gould's Plaza do not support the 75% plan. They believe it discourages/limits access to their properties;
 - b. Adding a mix of left and right left turn lanes to support businesses on both sides of the corridor. This only works well (provides good access to all businesses) if Middlesex Savings Bank changes their entrance and no further development occurs on the north side;

- c. Retaining the current two-way left turn lane (2WLTL) with some modifications. This does provide good access, however, it is counter to a design standard set by the Committee to eliminate the current 2WLTL.

The Committee favored removal of the 2WLTL as shown in option b. However, the reality is that a major parcel on the north side last proposed for development as Tri-Valley Commons will be developed in the next few years. No configuration of alternate left turn lanes supporting both east bound and west bound traffic can be designed that does not adversely impact one or more businesses. MassDOT also believes that option a or b provides less protection for pedestrians trying to cross.

After considerable debate, the Committee felt that a 2WLTL best serves the needs of all users of the corridor. Some changes envisioned from the current configuration include overhead signs to clearly alert drivers of the 2WLTL zone, a wider 2WLTL (13 feet vs. 11 feet), and addition of a Hawk pedestrian crossing signal at Dunkin Donuts/Papa Gino's for improved pedestrian safety.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Mr. Hooper. Approved 4-0-1. Mr. Yorkis abstained.

5. The Committee had a brief discussion on the status of Medway Shopping Center signal. Generally the plans are acceptable. GPI reports the tie in on RT 109 is acceptable. **The Chair requested a meeting with the Town Administrator, Economic Development, and DPS to review plans and make a final determination for an agreement with MSC.**
6. Since the plans are closing out comment with MassDOT and 100% design plans will be underway soon, the Chair requested members to review and make any final comments to Mr. Howie. **Comments can be incorporated or discussed at the next meeting if needed.**
7. Discussed Choate Park entrance design and pocket parks. One pocket park has been confirmed at Main and Mechanic Streets on Town property. Mr. Yorkis has been working to secure gift funding for that park from the National Association of Realtors, as well as, labor and material gifts from other suppliers. **To expedite the process, the Committee agreed to form a Task Force comprised of Mr. Yorkis, Mr. Hooper, and Mr. Buckley to review and recommend to the Committee concept designs for the Choate Park entrance including signage and the Mechanic Street pocket park. The Task Force will report back to the Committee at the next meeting.**
8. In a review of traffic signal designs, the Committee desired to review standard traffic signal equipment with more decorative options. Mr. Diaz pointed out that more elaborate options could cost as much as \$200,000 additional for the project and may not be well received by MassDOT. **GPI will provide some alternatives and costs for discussion at the next meeting.**

Next meeting planned for January 6, 2015. Location and time to be determined.

Adjourn at 9:50 pm.