

Preliminary list of values and concerns about Route 3 as Gateway to Bar Harbor

June 23, 2010

At the first public informational meeting on the Route 3 Gateway Project in Bar Harbor, participants were asked to share responses to two questions:

What do you currently value or appreciate about Route 3 as the Gateway to Bar Harbor?

What concerns do have for the future of Route 3 as a Gateway to the town?

List of what participants said they appreciated about Route 3 as a Gateway to Bar Harbor

- The road passes through and allows views of remarkable natural beauty
- Traffic is generally moving slowly
- The road allows glimpses of Bar Harbor's history
- The feel to the corridor is welcoming, trees line many sections
- The road currently has a variety of scales, corresponding to the neighborhoods through which it passes, with a variety of setbacks that encourage appropriate slower speeds
- There is a mix of residential, commercial and open-space uses of land along the corridor
- There is bike and pedestrian access in some areas
- The route is direct, and brings people to and from town fairly efficiently
- There is a feeling of an older, less commercial time along many sections of the road... some call this quaint, in a respectful way
- There are some places where cars can pull off for views
- It is a two lane road
- It brings visitors to the main entrance to Acadia National Park

Participants also shared concerns about the future of Route 3 as a Gateway...

- The sidewalk and bikeways from Cottage Street to the Ferry terminal do not feel safe to walkers, runners, bicyclists and motorists who share the corridor
- The sidewalks are not safe for people in wheelchairs
- Two groups of cyclists use this corridor—long distance cyclists who are coming to the terminus of several national routes, and local cyclists, those visiting or who reside here—neither of these groups are well served by the current corridor
- People want the road to be efficient, but do not want to increase average speeds of vehicular traffic
- The road passes through a designated historic district, and past listed historic properties
- There are run-off and drainage problems with the current road way

- There are unmet needs for the Island Explorer and other transit providers
- There will be a variety of access problems depending on construction phases and schedules
- The road must accommodate auto, recreational vehicle, truck and bus traffic- both larger tour busses and smaller Island Explorer busses
- There need to be clear and safe turns and access to and from Route 3 in Hulls Cove, at the Park Entrance and elsewhere
- The current utility poles and lines are not attractive
- There are sections of the road affected by falling rocks and ice
- There are local public works needs that share the corridor
- There is a desire to keep the variable scale and feel to the corridor
- Lighting can be improved
- What ever is reconstructed, must be built for ease of maintenance
- There are needs for better crosswalks in some sections
- A suggestion was made to include the further portion of Route Three to the intersection of Rte 233 at Mount Desert Street
- Whatever is designed should account for long term trends/needs in traffic

List compiled by Ron Beard, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

To add additional values or concerns, please contact him at 667 8212 or email him at ronald.beard@maine.edu