

Bar Harbor Route 3 Gateway Project Advisory Committee
October 19, 2010 8:30 to 10:30 AM
Acadia National Park Headquarters
Minutes

Review and Adjust Agenda

Anything strike you since the last meeting?

Fred: Gateway is local, small and welcoming. How do you make improvements while maintaining the charm. Traffic calming will be very important, including landscaping. Question: How do you determine speed limit? Don't know. There are a number of factors. It doesn't usually help to set unrealistically low limits.

Chip: Town is exploring what services they should extend during construction. Water and sewer alternatives are all quite expensive. Town may choose to maintain and improve what they have now.

Bonnie: Looking at the ideas put forward by the group.

Luis: Extremely curious about what happened to the knotweed across from the Holiday Inn. It's a blight. Don't know how to get rid of it. He may just be cutting it. It appears to be dead.

Paul: Looking for solutions that will respect people's property. The road has deteriorated badly. Fred noted that most of the corridor will receive a maintenance treatment next spring. Need to inform the town that this is just a temporary treatment.

Jim: Much higher traffic volumes make this project all the more pressing.

Francis:

Dick: Need to make sure that we maintain a flow through the corridor. The Gurnee Path above the bluffs is not maintained, but is still walkable.

Elsie: Glad to see that everyone is still engaged and active. We'll learn a lot.

Kim: Ditto to earlier remarks. Road condition is deteriorating.

Joe: Noticing a lot of big tour buses on the road now. The road feels too small.

Dean: Notice how often I am behind an Ollie's Trolley. This may be a difficult problem to solve.

Sharon: How are we going to take care of summer traffic and not feel overbuilt in the winter?

James: Zoning changes on the corridor will permit higher density development.

Edith: We have an issue with repaving. Will that raise the road level and increase problems with drainage? Chip – maintenance coat will not fix the drainage.

Stephanie: Always surprised to see a bonehead traffic move. RV's pulling over for scenic views pointing the wrong way.

John: Seer buses are asking to store buses on island so that they don't have to go Bangor and Lewiston.

Ron: Number of buses appears to be very high. Storms are getting more intense. This is stretching the capacity of our systems.

Review and Consensus around draft “vision statement” (attached)

General Comments:

- It is a bit long
- These concerns have been expressed at various meetings.
- Can this be bulleted to make it easier to read?
- We can probably pair it down to a smaller number of points.
- Have the opening paragraph capture some readers with details for the rest.

Specific Comments

- People also visit by bicycle
- There are also touring visitors
- Did not see anything about drainage

People willing to work on this for the public meeting: Dean, Edith, Dick, Jim

Note that this group met immediately following the general meeting and produced the following short vision statement.

“We envision Bar Harbor Route 3, from Ireson Hill to Mount Desert Street, will provide a safe, efficient and aesthetically pleasing transportation corridor that encourages multiple uses and maintains or enhances the historic standards representative of Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park.”

Review and consensus on summary chart of concerns for each corridor segment

General Comments

The current sidewalk by the old school house is not comfortable. It is too narrow and too close to truck and other traffic.

Dean: Any off-road trails need to be connected to a bigger system. An off-road path might be on the Ocean Side. Southbound users will have to cross back to the right side if the off-road section ends.

Hulls Cove – would like to explore the off-road bikeway that connects to the rest of the corridor.

Joe: It will be important to have some on corridor access from Crooked Road to town. Some people may go on Norway to Crooked, but still need to continue on Route 3. The walls into Hulls Cove are a choke point. We need to address that in a way that is acceptable to the land owners.

Some land owners might consider options across their property.

Dick: This process should also be an opportunity for other projects to be coordinated. We should let people know that they should look for coordinated projects.

Elsie: The matrix can be used to create bullets for the visions document.

Jim: Illustrations may help the public to envision concepts such as shared use paths.

Plan for October 25 Public Meeting

Ron presented a draft agenda

<p>Bar Harbor Route 3 Gateway Public Meeting October 25, 2010 4:30 to 6 PM Bar Harbor Town Hall Auditorium</p> <p>Agenda (revised)</p> <p>Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Advisory Committee members• MaineDOT Staff and Community participants <p>Overview of session - Ron Beard, University of Maine Cooperative Extension</p> <p>Review of Context Sensitive Solutions approach - Fred Michaud, MaineDOT</p> <p>Project timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 2: Finalize problem/vision statements and discuss evaluation criteria• November 30: MaineDOT presents preliminary design alternatives• December 16: Committee refines alternatives• January: Committee selects preferred alternatives• February: Public meeting to present preferred alternatives and seek input• March: Committee reviews public input and refines recommendations• April: MaineDOT and committee present final design at public meeting <p>Outline Progress to Date,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft Problem Statement• Draft Vision Statement• Draft Summary of Concerns and Possible Context Sensitive Solutions <p>Public Questions and Comments</p>

Comments:

May not be sufficient space in the council chambers

May not be sufficient time for public comment

- There are a lot of misconceptions and questions about the process

Move the timeline to the top – to clarify the process

- Let people know that construction is not likely until 2014

Some people may be very emotional about this project.

- Some people are asking about injunctions
- Since we do not have a specific plan, many concerns may not be justified.
- May require a brief description of the MaineDOT takings process.
 - This may be too early to start this discussion. It may create more anxiety.
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- We should listen to people now and promise to come back with responses at a future meeting.

Need to open this meeting with opportunities for comments. Make sure people have an opportunity to share their ideas.

- Don't need to repeat the first public meeting.
- Don't want people to feel pressured to accept a MaineDOT imposed design

The matrix has a lot of concerns and ideas

- It is too long and detailed for a brief presentation
- We should emphasize no-solutions at this stage
- The "Public" is a bigger group
 - Jackson Lab and other commuters
 - Large businesses and employers
 - Residents
 - This committee is intended to represent these broader constituencies.

Next Steps:

Vision subcommittee will work on refining the draft vision statement (done and incorporated here)

Public Meeting

We will set up a projector and see whether there it will work.

Fred will bring a few MaineDOT staffers

- Todd Pelletier and Jim Fergusen have new positions in MaineDOT.

November 2nd meeting

Location: To Be Determined – ANP is not available

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Draft Agenda

- Debrief from public meeting
- Meet with the design team
- Map showing MaineDOT right of way
- Presentation about the Gurnee Path