



**NH 111 Corridor & Wall Street Extension Feasibility Study
Project Advisory Meeting
Windham Planning & Development Office
Minutes**

May 6, 2010

Members Present: Bob Ashburn, Matt Caron, Bruce Breton, Annette Stoller, Sy Wrenn and Gerry Lewis.

Project Staff Present: Laura Scott, (Windham); Gene McCarthy, Mike MacDonald (McFarland-Johnson); Cliff Sinnott and Roxanne Rines (RPC).

Public Present: Dianna Fallon and Bob Young, Residents.

MEETING OPENED AT 4:35 P.M.

1. Open/Welcome/Introductions

McCarthy opened the meeting and indicated that Sinnott was on his way from a meeting in Concord and expected to be 10 minutes late. Attendees introduced themselves and stated what organization they represented.

2. Communications/Public Comment

None.

McCarthy distributed the final version of the Problem and Vision statements. The statements will change as the project moves forward.

3. PAC Meeting #5 Summary (3-24-10)

Minutes accepted as written.

McCarthy asked that item #4 be discussed when Sinnott joins the meeting.

7b. Project Website – status – **Scott** showed the website to members and stated that it is not available online yet. The page will be available from the town website. She will send the link to the committee members and asked that if they had changes to let her know. The site should be live next week.



5. Existing Conditions Memorandum

McCarthy stated this document looked at current conditions along with different ways of looking at the corridor. Each roadway was looked at individually and then the significant intersections (mostly the signalized intersections). After this, the crash history was reviewed and how they were rated.

He explained that speed and congestion were the predominant issues, especially on Route 111. Discussion ensued between staff and members about the issues along the corridor. **Sinnott** asked members if there were any short term suggestions.

Chief Lewis gave an overview of the types of crashes that have occurred in the past few years. He also stated that changing the traffic light trip could help in the short term. Also, when the truck scales on I-93 are open the trucks divert to 111.

McCarthy stated he will add the truck diversion and crash data to a recommendations section. He also asked members to review the document and get any changes to him.

4. Continued Discussion: Future Land Use and Development Assumptions; Input from local developers

McCarthy stated Scott had asked two local developers to look at the assumptions in the document and comment. The developers had a couple of questions about employment and traffic volumes that he and Sinnott looked into.

McCarthy described how the scope for the project was developed using the RPC model. The developers had two comments that need to be addressed: at the South Lowell/101 intersection, we do not show the Hardwood Road link; the traffic model does not include the road, because it is a residential street. **Sinnott** stated the model is a regional model and it cannot handle that level of detail for the entire region. **McCarthy** continued that the second is the Church Street link which is a cross over, traffic was counted, but there are no right turns made.

McCarthy stated the developers had concerns about our traffic count numbers. Traffic counts vary depending on the time of year they were done. The numbers are not so different that you would consider them to be inaccurate.

McCarthy continued that the bigger concern is our projection and forecasting numbers. The assumptions for housing units and employment were very different. **Sinnott** stated the developer used Bruce Mayberry's impact fee study numbers which was completed in 2006 and showed the town had 2,700 employees in Windham. The models base year was 2000 with a number of 1,900 employees and it appears that there was that much growth between 2000 and 2006. In 2008, the number of employees is 3,054 according to Employment Security. In the Mayberry study, it predicts that employees in year 2030 will be between 4,200 and 5,000; our model extends to 2035 and predicts a total of 2,700, which is what it is today. **Sinnott** stated the model allocates future land use based in part by what currently exists. He continued that the input from the developers was very useful.

McCarthy stated the numbers in the model did not accurately reflect the employment numbers in Windham. What employment numbers should the document reflect for 2035, based on 3,000 jobs existing today? **Sinnott** stated there are 3 scenarios possible: using linear trends; mirroring population rate numbers; and that the I-93 construction will ignite a level of growth on 111 that no prediction can adequately predict.

Sinnott asked the Committee what is the right thing for the project team to be thinking about in terms of a likely development scenario? Is there an inclination in town that over the next 25 years Windham's employment growth will be capped due to buildout?

Discussion ensued about the future availability of public water and sewer and the use of park and rides in the state. Consensus was to use a current employment number of between 4,200 and 5,000 for the present year rather than what is included in the model for 2000 (about 2750).

McCarthy stated the next meeting topic should focus on alternatives. He said that the committee needs to look at the corridor and decide on reasonable alternatives both with and without a bypass.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 3rd, at 9:00 a.m.

7. Recurring Business

- a. **Task and Schedule update** – none.
- c. **Contract Extension Request, status** – **Sinnott** stated the contract extension is expected to happen this month.
- d. **Tracking/Submission of Committee members, hours to date** – **Sinnott** stated committee members hours need to be kept updated and given to Scott. He will provide a status of total hours and value of in-kind match at the next meeting.

9. Adjourn

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary