

MEMORANDUM

To: Route 236 Implementation Committee and Interested Parties

From: Josh Mack, Transportation Planner

Date: November 1, 2006

RE: Meeting Notes from 236 Meeting on October 23, 2006

Those in attendance included Dale Abbott, Strafford Regional Planning; Diane Brandon, Community Wellness Coalition; Dennis Emidy, Maine DOT Engineer; Josh Mack, Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission (SMRPC)/KACTS; Fred Michaud, Maine DOT Bureau of Planning; Jack Murphy, Eliot Selectman Chair; Betsy O'Donoghue, Eliot Selectwoman; Terry Oliver, South Berwick Public Works; Tom Reinauer, SMRPC/KACTS; Rick Rossiter, Kittery Public Works; Bill Shapleigh, Eliot Road Commissioner; Conrad Welzel, Maine Turnpike Authority Government Affairs.

Updates

- Josh Mack gave an update on an Emergency Incident and Traffic Flow meeting held on October 19. The meeting was held at the request of the Route 236 and Route One Corridor Committees. The committees requested that staff look into existing emergency incident practices and how they impact traffic flow (particularly on 236 and 1), and offer assistance in facilitating a working group to look for opportunities to improve existing management practices. Law enforcement, fire and emergency management personnel and transportation safety officials were invited representing state, county or municipalities south and east of Sanford, including communities on Route 236. Attendees included state police, Maine DOT, Maine Turnpike Authority, and municipal fire and police from Route One communities and South Berwick. It was established at the meeting that there are certainly some room for improvement. Two major focus areas identified at the meeting were needs for improving some communications during incidents and ways in which different groups can share information using the state's SWIMS technology (State Wide Incident Management Software). A follow-up meeting will be scheduled for January, which will be posted on the SMRPC website.
- Terry Oliver gave a brief review of a proposed industrial park project on Route 236. South Berwick plans to have a special town meeting to discuss the possibility of the town posting a bond to purchase 14 acres of property in the Industrial Zone, which would possibly be financed through a Tax Increment Financing program. The project stems from a recent marketing study performed by RKG Associates for the Town of South Berwick. Diane Brandon asked how much traffic would the Industrial Park generate? Terry answered said that it depended on what types of uses would go into the park. Josh noted that the plan calls for a shared entrance and exit, which would be good from an access management perspective.
- Terry Oliver also noted that the town recently met with the grammar school on Main Street in South Berwick and they have agreed to apply for funding to build a new school facility, hopefully relocated outside of the village center.

- Josh gave an update that he continues to work with the Town of South Berwick on adopting improvements to its access management standards. The town is also considering recommendations related to context sensitive road design for its subdivision streets.
- Josh is also planning to start on access management recommendations for the Town of Eliot. There is also the possibility that Josh will begin working with the town on the transportation section of their Comprehensive Plan. SMRPC is currently developing a possible contract with the Town of Eliot to also revise its road standards. SMRPC recently completed some directional traffic counts for Eliot as well.
- Dale Abbott gave a brief description of the modeling that Strafford Regional Planning Commission has done for the General Sullivan Bridge in New Hampshire. Dale explained that modeling is available showing that significant traffic will be diverted on 236 during the reconstruction phase of the bridge (scheduled for completion in 2012, construction beginning in 2009), but will alleviate New Hampshire traffic after completion. Modeling took into account Route 236, but not collector roads feeding into Route 236.

Route 236 Engineering Study

Dennis Emidy continued his presentation on existing conditions on Route 236. Much of the presentation was a review of the same presentation that he gave in August, because there were several people at the meeting that had not seen that presentation (which is available in summary format in the August meeting notes). Dennis explained that since the last meeting he has been working on the Route 236 report, as well as fine-tuning the calibration of his Sim Traffic Model. New existing condition information given at this meeting was Maine DOT's calibrations of the Level of Service performance of Route 236 intersections. Information generated for these intersections include:

- LOS information for minor street and major street left turns
- AM and PM peak LOS at each intersection
- Directional LOS information
- Measured delay (seconds/vehicle) at each intersection
- The intersection of Academy Street/Main Street and Portland Street/Main Street (where Police Officers are stationed to direct traffic during the peak hours) in South Berwick were also provided with LOS numbers

Dennis showed his Sim Traffic Model for a handful of model intersections. Jack Murphy asked why there currently isn't any signalization at the Portland Street and Main Street intersection. Terry Oliver responded that a traffic signal is controversial in town, because it would probably mean that some on-street parking would have to be taken out. Downtown merchants are opposed to eliminating on-street parking. The data shows that the police officers directing traffic are moving traffic through the downtown much more efficiently than if no officers were stationed downtown at all.

Jack Murphy mentioned that the Town of Eliot recently got approval from Maine DOT and are in the process of constructing a pedestrian walk signal at Depot Road across from Marshwood Middle School on the south side of the intersection across Route 236. This pedestrian crossing will also include some sidewalk sections.

Jack Murphy asked if Cedar Road (near Depot Road) was accounted for in the model. Dennis said he didn't have turning count information for that road. Josh said he doesn't have turning count info, but will send Dennis directional count information recently collected for the Town of Eliot.

Rick Rossiter asked Dennis to find out if a left hand turn arrow signal head was warranted at the intersection of Route 236 and Martin/Stevenson Road. Dennis noted he would check on it.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the committee agreed that Dennis Emidy present his future conditions analysis for mid January.

The meeting was later confirmed to be on Tuesday, January 9th, at Eliot Town Hall.