

ROUTE 6 REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: 9:12AM by Joyce Stille

PLACE: Columbia Town Hall

ROLL CALL: Joyce Stille (Town Administrator – Town of Bolton); Eric M. Trott (Planner – Town of Coventry); Vera Englert (EDC – Town of Columbia); John Pagini (Planner – Town of Bolton); Elaine Buchardt (EDC – Town of Andover); Jana Butts (WINCOG/Planner – Town of Columbia); Leigh Ann Hutchinson (PZC – Town of Andover); Lia Huang (CRCOG); Jeff Parker (CHA); Rob Aloise (CRCOG); Casey Hardin (CHA)

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Buchardt and seconded by Pagini to adopt the October 24, 2011 as presented. The motion passed unanimously with Englert abstaining.

TRANSPORTATION STUDY:

It was reported that the meeting with DOT to review the various design alternatives was constructive and there was relative agreement overall.

Jeff Parker reviewed the continued analysis of the preliminary concepts.

BOLTON:

Concept E was discussed, in particular the speed reduction challenges.

ANDOVER:

Concept C – Split RTE 6 in a one-way fashion with village style improvements. There was discussion regarding concerns with the significant nature of the proposed design by FHA/DOT. It was agreed that it would be helpful to learn of any resistance to the design by the FHA early in the process. A phased approach to the concept is the most prudent manner of developing the option.

COLUMBIA:

Concept C – 2 land roundabout with additional ‘village’ development area and boulevard was further discussed. It will be important to express the design benefits of roundabouts and in particular with the subject proposal.

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Vera expressed concern and displeasure with the option. Vera left the meeting after describing her feelings about responses to her comments and indicated that she may not return.

The Preliminary Multimodal Improvement Summary was distributed and reviewed. The summary provides near and midterm improvements for improvements to pedestrian and biking amenities for the Hop River Trail and the corridor as a whole. It was agreed that a multimodal approach was a great idea and is supported.

It was agreed that signage and branding of the corridor is very important as well as recognition of the involvement with the East Coast Greenway. The Kings Road bridge connection issue was discussed for the Hop River Trail.

CT Transit and park and ride issues were discussed which may improve ridership in the corridor in the future.

Eric mentioned that the Coventry concept was recently reviewed by the Coventry EDC and they were in support of the concept.

Joyce reported on a meeting that was held between representatives of Munson's Chocolates and the local State Representatives. The subject of the meeting was the State owned properties in close proximity to Munson's as it relates to their plans to expand.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Details were discussed for the upcoming public forums to review the transportation design concepts. Various exhibits will be available and user-friendly visuals will be provided.

It was mentioned that street name warning signs on directional signs would be very helpful to motorists.

It was reported that on December 12th, the CRCOG Transportation Committee will be updated on the status of the project.

RTE 6 PROJECT:

John indicated that Bolton is currently working on the creation of RTE 44 Guidelines and regulations that the Council may be able to take advantage of for the corridor. John will continue to pursue a cost estimate to assist in the final integration of the corridor regulations with the individual town's regulations.

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NEXT MEETING:

The next meetings are scheduled for January 9 and 23, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric M. Trott

Secretary