

ROUTE 6 REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012

CALL TO ORDER: 9:15AM by Joyce Stille

PLACE: Columbia Town Hall

ROLL CALL: Eric M. Trott (Planner – Town of Coventry); 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); Joyce Stille (Town Administrator – Town of Bolton); Vera Englert (EDC/PZC – Columbia); Rob Aloise (CRCOG); Lia Huang (CRCOG); Jeff Parker (CHA); David Head (DOT); Molly Parsons (DOT)

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: A motion was made by Pagini and seconded by Buchardt for the following slate of Council officers: Joyce Stille – Chair, Carmen Vance – Vice Chair

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Buchardt and seconded by Pagini to adopt the minutes of January 23, 2012 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

TRANSPORTATION STUDY:

Jeff and Lia discussed the call-in session in Bolton and that it went well and they are hoping to post in the CRCOG website.

It was reported that DEEP found the trail lowering concept at the Andover node to be acceptable.

Renderings for the nodes were distributed and discussed individually.

COLUMBIA –

The 'roundabout with the village' concept was reviewed. Questions were raised by Columbia representatives on the feasibility of the development near Leventi's and the use of a former dump site. Questions were also raised about visual impacts and loss of value to the Lighthouse property. Vera would prefer to avoid the roundabout and suggests pursuing the signalized intersection option. Overall, the Columbia delegation has not achieved a consensus on the rendering/concept at this time.

A concern was raised about the timing of these concerns being indicated after there has been such a long passage of time and opportunity to provide comment.

Jeff indicated the need to examine flood related issues with the design at the Columbia Plaza location.

Page 2

RTE 6 REDC Minutes

March 12, 2012

John suggested the need to take a step back and reflect on the history of the development of the Corridor Plan. The goal is to balance economic development and transportation improvements and encourage benefits to the four towns. Movement from the status quo towards consensus is necessary.

Eric agreed with John's sentiments. There is a need to move towards consensus and balance the issues that arise. It is important to respect the comments that have been made as well. The question was asked as to whether Columbia needed more time to review the plans and hopefully reach a consensus. Further, the suggestion of reflecting on the matrices that CHA prepared on the node that described the pro's/con's may be helpful in creating consensus.

John stressed that the Council's goal is to create a plan that can evolve towards the future. Decisions have to be made at this time, but ultimate action is likely many years away. It was suggested that Mark Waterhouse could be consulted to describe the perceived business impacts with the proposal that may assist with consensus building.

ANDOVER –

The 'village with the split Route 6' concept was reviewed.

Leigh Ann expressed concerns with the intensity of the development being suggested to the east of the church and the impacts to the existing businesses with the proposal.

John suggested that design feasibility and engineering is critical and that phases of the project can be pursued independently. Language can be placed in the narrative of the Plan that indicates future and midterm phases of the development could occur over time. In any version of the Plan, environmental, site constraint, flood, wetlands and slope issues must be carefully examined.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the pro's and con's of the split of Route 6 at this node. The interior road connectivity within the node was also discussed in detail. The need for pedestrian improvements, medians and traffic calming were agreed to be necessary.

COVENTRY –

The new intersection at the 'Coventry Ridge' site was reviewed.

It was agreed that the proposal addresses many issues associated with the site as well as the South Street alignment and would serve to be a significant improvement. The gateway treatment should be maintained at this location as well to create consistency with the elsewhere in the corridor. The Coventry EDC is supportive of the concept.

Page 3

RTE 6 REDC Minutes

March 12, 2012

BOLTON –

The 'Bolton Crossroads and 6/44/384 interchange' concept was reviewed.

It was agreed that additional parking at the greenway access is desirable.

The impacts to the existing businesses must be carefully evaluated and coincide with plans for Munson's expansion.

The Howard Road connection must be carefully considered and modifications are possible. But, this should not be a big focus at this time.

The next steps schedule was distributed and reviewed. The goal is to complete the study in June 2012.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric M. Trott

Secretary