



**Milton US 7 Corridor Study
Advisory Committee Kick-off Meeting Notes**

DATE: Wednesday, June 25, 2014
TIME: 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
PLACE: Milton Municipal Building Community Room

Members/Alternates Present:

Rachel Beauregard, VTrans District 5
Lori Donna, Milton Planning Comm./ED Comm.
Kym Duchesneau, Milton Recreation Coord.
Rob Hall, VTrans
Jacob Hemmerick, Milton Town Planner
Roger Hunt, Milton DPW Director
Brian Palaia, Milton Town Manager
Katherine Sonnick, Milton Planning Director
Brett Van Noordt, Milton Police Chief

Others Present:

Bill Dailey
Ann Janda, Town of Milton
Amanda Holland, Northwest RPC
Edward Robinson

Staff/Consultants Present:

Joe Barr, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Michele Boomhower, CCRPC
Jason Charest, CCRPC
Lee Krohn, CCRPC
Diane Meyerhoff, Third Sector Assoc.

1) Changes to the Agenda: There were none.

2) Welcome & Introductions

Jason Charest of the CCRPC welcomed the group and introductions were made.

3) Project Overview

3a) What is a Corridor Study

Jason Charest and Joe Barr of Parsons Brinckerhoff provided an overview of the process. A corridor study is a comprehensive assessment of issues, needs, and potential solutions to address corridor goals and objectives. Multimodal solutions will be wide ranging over the short and long-term (20 years). The process is collaborative, proactive, and comprehensive.

Joe described the study process (each step of the process includes public outreach):

- **Collect Information:** Review plans and studies; generate mapping; compile traffic data; collect transit info; inventory corridor
- **Existing & Future Conditions:** Assess from a Complete Streets perspective; current conditions and projected for year 2035
- **Corridor Vision & Goals:**
 - Vision: Concise statement that paints a picture of the desired future for the corridor.
 - Goals: Specific statements that define how to achieve the vision, and form the basis for evaluating options
- **Identify Options:** Identify issues and deficiencies; reflect town policies and standards; compile toolbox of options and best practices; public workshop, near- and long-term options.
- **Evaluate Options:** Evaluation criteria derived from study goals; quantitative and qualitative measures; consider needs of all corridor users

- **Implementation Plan:** Recommendations; priorities; implementation timeframe; agency responsibilities

Michele Boomhower of the CCRPC noted that a key element of corridor studies conducted by the CCRPC, such as US7 in Shelburne, US2 in South Burlington/Williston, Route 15 in Essex/Winooski, and US7 Western Corridor, is that implementation is monitored by the Regional Planning Commission through a Corridor Working Group comprised of Advisory Committee members and key stakeholders. A Corridor Working Group typically meets annually to review ongoing activities in relation to the implementation plan.

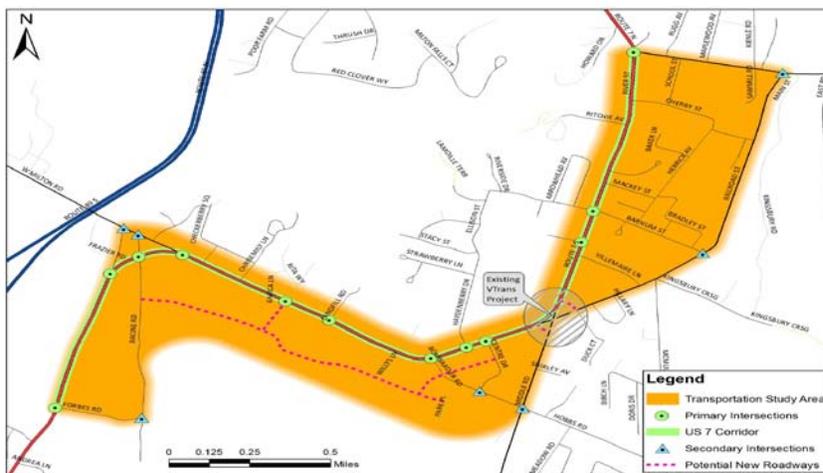
3b) Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is made up of participants from the Town of Milton, Milton School District, VTTrans, and FHWA. Joe explained that the role of the Advisory Committee is to represent a range of perspectives; review study materials and provide feedback; and participate in developing the vision, goals, options, and recommendations. Diane Meyerhoff of Third Sector Associates asked that members assist with outreach for public meetings.

3c) Study Schedule

The study will take place over ten to twelve months and include four advisory committee meetings and three public meetings. The first public meeting will be in a workshop format and feature an introduction to the Study, corridor issues, and existing conditions. It will be hosted by the Milton Planning Commission. The second public meeting will be in a workshop format to discuss the vision, goals, and possible strategies. This will be a stand-alone meeting. The final public meeting will feature a presentation of the Draft Plan and will be hosted by the Milton Selectboard.

3d) Study Area



Michele explained the approach to a potential new Interstate interchange, Exit 17A. Parsons Brinckerhoff will conduct an arterial analysis of US7 from Chimney Corners to Forbes Road. The goal is to determine how this part of US7 will operate from a traffic perspective and determine if some type of relief is needed for future traffic congestion. This study will not look at 17A per se, rather it will determine if and when some kind of improvement is necessary.

4) Data Collection and Analysis

Joe will be looking at intersection traffic counts, previous studies, existing and future land use (with the help of Lee Krohn of CCRPC), traffic analysis, primary and secondary intersection performance, and the US7 Arterial Analysis. The consultants will talk with landowners to gather data about their plans; input from the committee members about future development is appreciated. Joe provided a list of previous studies; again, if committee members have additional studies, please provide them to Joe.

5) Discussion of Major and Minor Corridor Issues

Rachel Beauregard of VTrans District 5 noted the possibility of 500 new residential units off of West Milton Road.

Rob Hall of VTrans expects a new convenience store at Hayden Berry Drive and US7. VTrans has agreed to allow a “right in, right out” on US7. Bob Kroger has discussed a residential development north of Landfill Road on Winterberry Road. Katherine Sonnicks of Milton has seen numerous iterations for subdivisions on Boysenberry and Winterberry.

Rob Hall noted the new legislation that requires developers to pay their “fair share” of new infrastructure costs. He believes that corridor studies are important because they allow municipalities to provide a clear plan for their communities and help to assess fair share costs. Michele provided additional information about the Transportation Improvement District (TID) legislation and the new Act 250 Criterion 9L to reduce sprawl development.

Bill Dailey and Ed Robinson addressed the committee. They own 260 acres of industrial land in Milton. This includes a quarry with a 50 year permit and permits for concrete and hot mix plants. They have interest in making sure that goods and services can move in and out of that property.

Brett Van Noordt, Police Chief, noted that there are safety concerns for buses exiting Rebecca Lander Drive. There are parking issues at Herrick Avenue and accidents at Middle Road and Railroad Street. There is interest at Appletree Condos for sidewalks and crosswalks.

Roger Hunt noted that the Lamoille Terrace/Barnes Street/Route 7 intersection is severely offset, leading to driver indecision and congestion.

Brian Palaia, Milton Town Manager, noted that River Street floods and traffic has to be rerouted.

Lori Donna of the Milton Planning Commission lives on Barnum Street. She’s seen improvements in safety since the traffic light was added at Centre Drive. It’s still difficult to make a left turn at Landfill Road, Chrisemily Lane, and Milton Rental, especially in the morning. An alternative route to US7 is of utmost importance for safety and future land use options. A number of people have come to the Planning Commission asking for land use changes beyond the core; the commission has decided to focus on the town core and not grant the changes. The commission is interested in offering incentives for development in the town core. Michele responded that the corridor study can recommend policy changes, like an official town map.

Rob Hall noted that Bill Sawyer was looking to add a signal at Landfill Road. Mr. McCormick proposed to redevelop the auto salvage yard; Bill Dailey noted that McCormick’s study looked at Racine Road and Legion Road with slip lanes.

Lori has seen an increase in traffic on Main Street, especially trucks. Brian suggested talking to Husky about their future plans.

There was discussion about growth in Fairfax and the need to learn about their future development plans. The movement of commuters from Fairfax, Grand Isle/South Hero, and Colchester was discussed.

Roger mentioned stormwater issues at Lamoille Terrace and Mackey Street which creates safety hazards, especially for buses in the winter. There is a gap in the sidewalk between the Laundromat and Ritchie Avenue. There is very little right-of-way left on US7 for new utilities, like gas service (proposed from Gimlet Hill north to Main Street).

Speeding doesn't seem to be a big issue, but Brett is willing to install a speed recorder on US7.

There was discussion of the Kearn property near the bridge which has requested a VTrans access permit. There was discussion about a connection to the "back" streets. Michele suggested that the town apply to the RPC for a planning grant to study these potential linkages.

Brett is in favor of an alternate to US7, especially when accidents shut down the road.

Roger would like to study a multipurpose path to the high school.

Ann Janda asked about aesthetics, landscaping, streetlights, etc. Michele responded that these are not usually assessed in a corridor study, but are part of the next level of work – in a scoping study.

Meredith Birkett of CCTA couldn't attend the meeting, but the RPC continues to coordinate with CCTA.

The TIF district application should be included in the list of previous studies.

6) Next Steps

The scope of work and schedule will be finalized; the existing and future conditions analysis will begin; and a draft vision and goal statement will be developed. The next advisory meeting will likely be in September followed by the first public meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Study Contacts

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