

**Project Advisory Committee Meeting #4**Colchester/Riverside Avenue Scoping Study/ 195311163

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Date/Time: November 10, 2016 /5:30 pm  
Place: CCRPC  
Attendees: Attendees Jason Charest (CCRPC), Sharon Bushor (Ward 1 City Councilor), Jason Van Driesche (Local Motion), Nicole Losch (Burlington DPW), Greg Edwards (Stantec), Rick Bryant (Stantec), Wayne Senville (Ward 1 NPA Representative), Linda Letourneau (V/T Commercial - Chace Mill Property Manager), Richard Hillyard (Ward 1 NPA Representative), David Armstrong (GMT), Sandy Thibault (CATMA, Hill Institutions), Eleni Churchill (CCRPC), Meagan Tuttle (Burlington Staff)  
Absentees: Alexander Sampson (Winooski Public Works), Kelly Stoddard Poor (AARP)  
Distribution: Attendees, Absentees

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**Meeting Summary**

Purpose of meeting was to address comments from PAC Meeting #3, present updated plans and select a preferred alternative.

**Meeting Notes**Stantec Presentation

- The attached plans and information were provided in a handout by email prior to the meeting and in hard copy form at the meeting. Revisions to the plans were presented and comments were deferred until the end of presentation.
- A mid-term alternative was presented to address the PAC's previous question regarding what long term improvements could be considered as an initial phase in the instance constructing the long term was problematic. A mid-term alternative was proposed that consisted of the construction of the additional northbound approach lane on Colchester Avenue in addition to the short-term improvements. The mid-term improvements would compliment and contribute to Alternatives 1 and 2 but not alternative 3.
- Stantec will check "call out" on plans regarding removal of on-street parking and make it clear where parking is to remain on Barrett Street and Colchester Avenue.
- Questions asked regarding the location for the beginning of the second lane on Colchester Avenue northbound.

PAC members comments on the short term and long term improvements.

- Sharon Bushor:

- Stressed the short term improvements for the pedestrians and bicycles should be pursued. It was pointed out the short term improvements, although subject to funding, are a given and are not excluded by pursuing the long term alternatives.
  - It was also pointed out The City will be funding the short term improvements.
- Wayne Seville
  - He indicated he is hesitant to support Alternative 3, the roundabout, due to the historic impacts and the pedestrian and bicycle safety concern with the 2 lane roundabout operation.
  - He suggested considering the mid-term improvements as part of the short term.
- Jason Van Driesche:
  - Also was concerned with the pedestrian and bicycle safety of the 2 lane roundabout.
  - He indicated the roundabout as too large of a scale given the context of the area and does not provided the desired gateway to the City.
  - With Alternative 2, he had a concern with the bike crossing the separated right turn lane and suggested considering providing a bike lane.
  - Also felt Alternative 2 promotes higher vehicle speeds for right turns.
  - It was pointed out Alternative 2 was developed to address the delay and queuing of the northbound right turns associated with Alternative 1. In Alternative 1 these turns are restricted during the pedestrian crossing phase and it is more likely to have queues extending onto the bridge. Alternative 2 indicates shorter queues and is therefore more compatible with a three lane bridge concept. This finding should be included in the report.
- Dave Armstrong
  - Indicated the roundabout is a ridiculous alternative due to its scale and impacts.
  - He preferred Alternative 1 since it is less complex.
  - He felt traffic simulations or 3D models would assist with evaluating alternatives.
  - Since analyses have already been completed for 3-lane and 4-lane bridge conditions this work can be folded into the bridge study.
- Eleni Churchill:
  - Indicated Alternative 2 would better accommodate traffic than Alternative 1.
  - Others indicated Alternative 1 is more attractive as it provides for a pocket park. Another concern cited is the proximity of the separated right turn lane of Alternative 2 to the shared-use path. Greater separation should be provided.
  - She indicated a scoping study for the Winooski River bridge was expected in 2017. This would include the analysis and evaluation of the lane needs on the bridge, 3 or 4 lanes.
  - It was recognized the result of the bridge scoping may influence a decision for selecting between Alternatives 1 and 2.
- Sandy Thibault:

- Did not support a roundabout due to impacts.
- Richard Hillyard:
  - Expressed concern with the amount of expense and impact afforded to accommodate bicycles and stressed the need to address issues with implementing the short term improvements.
  - He suggested refreshing the pavement markings regularly would be great safety improvement.
- Sharon Bushor:
  - Indicated without knowing the results of the upcoming bridge study, there was not enough information to choose between Alternatives 1 and 2. However, there was general agreement that the roundabout should no longer be considered and that the mid-term alternative be supported as either a stand-alone project or as a first phase of Alternative 1 or 2.
- Jason Van Driesche:
  - Suggested that the reconfiguration of the sidewalk and parking on the east side of Colchester be reevaluated for the mid-term alternative so that this area does not be reconstructed twice.
- Conclusion:
  - All supported the pursuing the short term improvements as soon as possible to address safety issues. All supported eliminating the roundabout from consideration as a preferred alternative and indicated the 4 way signalized intersection alternatives, Alternative 1 or 2, should be considered as the preferred alternative. The decision of Alternative 1 or 2 as the preferred alternative will be determined based on the results of the Bridge scoping study. If there is a benefit to phasing the long term improvements, then the mid-term improvements should be pursued.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

**Stantec Consulting Services Inc.**



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