

Wiscasset Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes

06-03-02

I. Meeting schedule.

- a. In an effort to address conflicting schedules the Committee agreed to adopt an alternating schedule. The schedule is based on a four-week month as follows.
 - i. Week one and three meetings will be held @ 5:30pm.
 - ii. Weeks two and four meetings will be held at 7:00pm.
 - iii. In the event of a five-week month in week five the meeting will be held at 7:00pm.

II. Update from Judy Flanagan

- a. Paul M briefly explained a recent conversation he had with Judy Flanagan. In this discussion Paul was informed of the following.
 - i. The selectmen up till that point had not received a letter from MDOT.
 - ii. MDOT has preliminary scope of work outlined for consultant.
 - iii. MDOT is not interested in exploring any new or formerly removed Routes.
 - iv. MDOT has limited the possible bypass routes to the following.
 1. Route N6
 2. Route N8D
 3. Route N8C
 4. Route N2
- b. Up till this point we have no knowledge of a planning consultant being hired.

- c. Paul will be attending a meeting located in Winthrop with Carl Crouche and Kathy Fuller of MDOT. It is Paul's intent to engage MDOT with direct questions in order to clarify certain points that up till this point seem rather ambiguous. It is the intent of the Committee via Paul to restore and promote ongoing dialog with MDOT.
- d. Paul will also be attending a Waterfront Master Plan Committee on Thursday 6-6-02.

III. Break Down of Agenda Discussion By Point.

- a. Approved - Make recommendations to the Board for access management for Route 1 and Route 27 in cooperation with MDOT (Kathy Fuller conversation).
- b. Approved – *"To make recommendations to the Board for the Route 1 and Route 27 as well as the Route 1 and Bradford Road/Lee Street intersections in cooperation with MDOT".*
- c. Approved - *Provide the necessary analysis to recommend to the Board a location for the new rail stations.* Brief discussion on the following existing thoughts on a rail station located on the Birch Point Road and one on the water front in town Wiscasset that addressed two specific needs.
 - i. One for bringing people to the Water Front.
 - ii. One for people commuting to BIW.
- d. Approved – *Act as a resource to the Waterfront Master plan Committee in analyzing the feasibility of water based transportation modes for commercial purposes.* Brief discussion on issues contributing to past failures of similar concepts.
 - i. Discussion raised the point of unruly youths making noise and disturbing the visitors on the boats.
 - ii. Idea was raised that a possible new location for such a facility might be the existing ferry landing.

- e. *Approved – Act as a resource to the Airport Committee in analyzing the feasibility of expanding air based transportation at the existing Wiscasset Airport.*
- f. *Approved – Develop a list of concerns and recommendations that can be discussed with MDOT’s Rockland office representative at a meeting in Wiscasset on 6/13/02 i.e. traffic controller, turn lanes, pedestrian signs at all cross walks, enforcement of speed and weight limits, plus...Brief discussion on the following.*
 - i. *Route 218, Federal Street speeding issues*
 - ii. *Number of entrances and exits on route one in town.*
- g. To be included on next weeks agenda - *Subcommittee structure to address issues of train station location water transportation, into and out of Wiscasset, and airport use.*
- h. To be included on next week’s agenda - *Develop a list of criteria that will be used in the evaluation of proposed bypass routes and an evaluation of no- and non-build alternatives.*

IV. Below are brief descriptions of discussion covered during meeting.

- There was discussion on the N6 route the Committee was under the impression that the route had been removed from the table of consideration by MDOT. The Committees reaction seemed to be consensus. The Committee is not in favor or entertaining N6 as a possible design solution. The reintroduction of the previously removed route has raised questions of trust within the Committee toward Commissioner Melrose and the Process as a whole.
- There was a discussion on the intersection of Route One and Lee Street and Route One and Bradford Road. (III, b). Along with the Route One and Route Twenty Seven intersection. Committee members agreed to discuss issues surrounding each of the listed intersections above.

- Don Jones brought up the possibility of using MDOT funds to acquire and protect environmentally sensitive lands in North Edgecomb and South Newcastle, as a way of gaining support for a ~~Northern~~-northern ~~Route~~-route such as some variation of N2 from environmental groups such as SVCA".

- Paul Mrozinski briefly discussed the Maine Coast Heritage Trust and their ideas for the land on the west side of the Sheepscot.

- There was a discussion during the meeting limited by Steve Kornacki. Steve would like Committee members to put together a list of Assumptions to be presented to the Select Board and MDOT. Steve had forwarded a list of assumptions to Commissioner Melrose and up to the night of the meeting he had not received any reply. Steve is hoping that a similar attempt endorsed by the entire Committee would receive the proper attention and receive a response to the direct questions.

- There was a discussion on how the Bypass issue is a regional problem but it seems that Wiscasset is the only community that has to take care of the problem. There was mention made that it seems that when surrounding towns voice an objection MDOT respects the decision but when Wiscasset raises concerns to an issue the response could be viewed as "ho hum, do the expedient" and do it via cheapest means. The process itself is directly in questions.

- There was a discussion on the correct terminology on No and Non Build. Committee member's views on the terms and different members lean either to the right or the left of such a response to the issues surrounding the Committee.

- There was a talk of Non Build alternatives that in the mean time while there is no Bypass solution we the Committee can and intend on solving such issues as part of our scope of duties.