

Wiscasset Transportation Committee
July 7, 2008

Present: Don Jones, Cindy Fischer, Lois Kwantz

Guests: Art Faucher, Wiscasset Town Manager; Ed Hanscom & Gerry Audibert,
Project
Engineer & Traffic Analyst

We opened the meeting at 7:10 PM and agreed to postpone the reading of the April minutes. Don introduced our guests from MDOT. Ed and Gerry work for MDOT in the Bureau of Transportation Systems Planning (BTSP).

We began the discussion with an update and review of the Wiscasset Bypass Interim Treatments Action Plan presented at the Midcoast Bypass Task Force Committee Meeting at the Edgecomb Eddy School on June 10, 2008. At that meeting a number of interim measures were discussed such as installation of traffic detection and "congestion ahead" warning signs on Rte. 1 in Edgecomb, a changeable message sign on I295, developing an off-street parking plan for downtown Wiscasset, removing "Coastal" from Rte. 1 signs, etc. At that meeting Kat Fuller of MDOT had also announced a new grant program that will be open to any of the 21 towns in the Gateway 1 program. \$400K, consisting of 80/20 Federal/State funding and NO local match required, is available to be used for projects that will enhance the movement of traffic in the Gateway 1 corridor. The application deadline is September 1, 2008 and Kat had suggested that Wiscasset should apply for some funds to be used for traffic calming measures in addition to the interim measures being developed by MDOT.

Ed and Gerry then spoke to some possible traffic calming measures that might work for Wiscasset. They mentioned things like a round-about, traffic islands, traffic signals, etc. Unfortunately the cost of most of these measures far exceeds the amount of money that Wiscasset might receive. They also talked about a "bump out" at the Middle St./Main St. intersection to make the crosswalk shorter for pedestrians, thus speeding up the time required for a person to cross Main St. and shortening the time for stopped traffic. However, Art Faucher questioned the wisdom of that since MDOT/Wiscasset will be doing a rehab of downtown Wiscasset in several years (storm drains, water/sewer lines, etc.). It appears that there are no traffic calming measures that make sense and are affordable at this point in time.

We learned that the final EIS should be available by the end of November. There is also a scheduled meeting on September 4th with architects, engineers, selectmen, planning board and school committee to finalize plans for closing one of the Wiscasset schools. There will be a vote in November to decide on the closing. However, changing the alignment of the N2 routes should NOT be a consideration in whether to choose the primary or the middle school.

We adjourned at 9:30 PM after expressing thanks Ed and Gerry for their time and information.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Kwantz, Secretary