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## **McFARLAND JOHNSON**

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# MEETING NOTES

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**PROJECT:** NASHUA, NH – EAST HOLLIS STREET AND BRIDGE STREET INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS (NHDOT PROJECT NO. 16314) (MJ Project No: 18315.00)      **DATE OF MEETING:** April 4, 2018

**LOCATION:** Auditorium, City Hall, Nashua, NH      **TIME:** 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

**SUBJECT:** Public Listening Session

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### ATTENDED BY:

CITY of NASHUA:	J. Vayo J. Caron S. Marchant J. Chizmas T. Cummings	Downtown Specialist Ward 7 Alderman Director Community Development Transportation Planner Director of Economic Development
MJ:	B. Colburn B. Patinskas J. Santacruce	
CRJA:	J. Law	
Residents:	See attached sign in sheet	

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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

B. Colburn began the meeting by giving an overview of the project and explaining the role of the steering committee. This project, which is located at the intersection of Bridge Street and East Hollis Street in Nashua, NH, will be run through the NHDOT LPA program. This means the project will complete an engineering study, preliminary design, final design, and construction. It will be funded 80% by NHDOT and 20% locally through turnpike toll credits. The project is currently at the beginning of the engineering study phase. The scope/goals of this project are that all modes of transportation are to be accommodated, traffic conditions cannot be made worse, this is not a regional project, and this project should build on previous planning studies.

The role of the public at this meeting is to come up with ideas and concerns in this area. The steering committee will then develop goals for the project and create a purpose and need statement. This statement will then be used by the engineer to come up with three design alternatives that meet the criteria. The steering committee will then pick one of those three alternatives to be the preferred alternative.

**DISCUSSION OF CHALLENGES:**

B. Colburn asked the attendees for what they believed were the most significant challenges in the area. They came up with the following:

- Exiting from side streets is difficult due to traffic and poor sight distance
- New traffic signal at D Street has made traffic worse
- Not as much of an issue with traffic at the existing signal except in the afternoon with school buses
- Traffic backs up from cars trying to turn left from Ferry Street to NH Route 102
- It appears that the backups from Hudson into Nashua are a light timing issue
- If a rotary goes in it will take the homes on E Street? *That is not the case.*
- Where are cars coming from and going to? This project should look at that. If they are going to Route 3 then maybe look at ways to get them to go around to the south to the Sagamore Bridge
- The westbound two-lane merge near E Street is dangerous
- Will the development in the area be taken into the account in the future traffic, especially the apartments? *Yes, this will be taken into account.*
- If new developments are going in on the Hudson side of the River, that should be looked into to see how they affect traffic
- There are no existing crosswalks or bike amenities on East Hollis Street which creates a very dangerous area for bikes and pedestrians
- Why is the scope of this project so small? *Part of the master plan along East Hollis Street was broken into phases because there is not enough money to fund the entire project. This is the first project funded in the NHDOT 10-year plan.*
- Does the City collect impact fees for projects like this from other projects? *No, only school impacts fees.*
- Why isn't there bus service in this area? *City is looking at new surveys to evaluate options for revised services in this area.*
- Traffic is bad in the morning waiting to get across the bridge due to school buses
- If you live on E and D Streets, it is common that you have to go around because you can't turn left onto Bridge Street.
- Residents are reluctant to have project consider changing one-way streets to two-way streets due to narrow width and potential additional cut through traffic.
- Left-turn at D street is an issue
- You can't make E Street two-way without taking out park where kids play and its already too narrow and too fast

**DISCUSSION OF OPPORTUNITIES:**

B. Colburn asked the attendees for what they believed were the opportunities for the project. They came up with the following:

- Love to see more access to the river
- Bicycle accommodations, protected bike lanes
- More sidewalks and pedestrian accommodations
- Wider sidewalks on bridge
- Less lanes and more width for bikes and pedestrians, look at Cambridge as an example (i.e road diet)
- Needs to benefit everyone, not just Nashua
- Can both bridges be made two-way?
- Gaps in traffic flow go away with apartment development, can smart lights be installed to restore gaps?

- Build a parallel road to Bridge Street through development all the way to Library Hill to handle additional development traffic
- Address issues with headlights, streetlights parking, and trucks
- Improve emergency access through this area
- Lighting in this area is too much - reduce street lights, car headlights, apartment lighting, signs, etc.
- New light at D street helped with sight lines
- Look at car crashes as there have been a number on Bridge and Ferry Street

#### **DISCUSSION OF GATEWAY:**

J. Law asked the attendees for what they wanted to see in a gateway for this project.

- Flags
- Grass strip with sidewalks
- Kids playing in a green space
- Arts – sculptures, theme for a year to highlight culture and arts
- History – use as a theme for the design
- Public garden for growing food – fruit trees and vegetable gardens
- Street trees - make sure the new landscaping doesn't affect sight lines
- Walkways along the river (example: see Benson Park in Hudson, NH)
- Playgrounds for kids
- Build something that is pretty to look at as people go by, but won't encourage people to stop
- Nice white trees like on Kinsley Street
- Pay attention to tree species – this area likes trees with deep roots
- Ornamental lighting
- Dog park

Submitted by:

Brian E. Patinskas, PE  
McFarland Johnson, Inc.

cc: Attendees

# East Hollis Street and Bridge Street Intersection Improvement Project

Project Listening Session  
April 4, 2018

## SIGN IN SHEET

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