

**US 19 Land Use and Transportation Study
Steering Committee Meeting Summary
Waterford Township Building
May 19, 2004, 1:30 PM**

Attendees:

- Jake Welsh, Erie County Planning
- Bill Petit, PennDOT 1-0
- Scott Young, PennDOT - Erie Maintenance Office
- Bill Brace, Waterford Township
- Mike Will, EMTA
- Erin Wiley, PennDOT 1-0
- Laura Zambruno, PennDOT 1-0
- Richard Kubiak
- Deborah Schreckengost, PennDOT 1-0
- Brian Funkhouser, Gannett Fleming

Call to Order

Brian Funkhouser welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. He reviewed the agenda with steering committee members. He noted that the main purpose of today's meeting was to review the consultant's interpretation of the public preferred scenario and to review a plan for the second round of public involvement. He added that he will be managing the project now that Toby Fauver has accepted a position as the director for PennDOT's Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways.

Scenario Development

Brian noted that several scenarios are being created and modeled to measure against traffic impacts: a baseline scenario, a full build out scenario (based on existing zoning), and a public preferred scenario. A significant challenge will be to translate what the public said during the March 10 meeting at Ft. LeBoeuf High School into a future land use vision for the study area. Model runs for the build out and public preferred scenarios are currently underway and were not available in time for review at today's meeting. For analysis purposes, it was agreed that Level of Service C (LOS C) should be used as a cutoff in delineating acceptable and unacceptable levels of service. Preliminary recommendations for both transportation and land use have been developed and are being packaged for the next round of public review and consideration. Recommendations should be bolstered by supporting data from the Census, safety audits, travel demand model, and other sources.

It was suggested that the planning team meet with the three study area municipalities in face to face meetings to review the land use-related recommendations. A follow up meeting with the steering committee would then be held to review the results of these

interviews before proceeding with the next round of public involvement. Model output data should also be available by that time so the steering committee can assess the traffic impacts of the various scenarios.

It was noted that Gannett's contract expires on June 30, 2004. Jake Welsh will proceed in amending Gannett's contract with a no-cost time extension.

Brian led a discussion on a series of preliminary recommendations that the planning team has developed to date. The recommendations were organized around transportation and land use-related issues and will continue to be fine-tuned between now and the next public meeting. Highlights of the discussion included:

- It was agreed that access management is a need in the study area and should be considered. The final report should define and "script it" as to where it should be implemented. Elements of the "how to" aspects of implementing access management should be included as an appendix in the final report.
- Express bus service to Waterford Borough, in conjunction with the development of a park and ride was discussed. EMTA noted that there has not been much interest expressed in transit service in that area of the county.
- The public has raised the issue of bypassing Waterford Borough as a potential key study consideration. This will be included as part of the public preferred scenario. Environmental and fiscal constraints however, will keep this from being included as part of any ultimate scenario.
- Traffic circles and roundabouts were discussed as innovative alternatives to the Y intersections on both sides of the borough. The roundabouts could serve as "gateways" to both entrances of the borough. Jake noted that the borough's "Main Street character" could be extended to these roundabouts with infill development encouraged.
- Sight distance needs to be improved at several study area locations, including US 19 at Dorn and Townhall Roads, as well as at Robison and Old French. The intersection of PA 97 and Townhall was also mentioned as a concern.
- Jughandles were dismissed as an alternative, due to problems with ongoing maintenance requirements, extensive right-of-way acquisition needs and resultant stormwater impacts.
- A third (turning) lane through Waterford Borough was also dismissed as a potential study recommendation due to its impacts on parking and the community park.
- In other notes loosely related to the study, resurfacing work on US 19 is expected to be completed by July 4. A Betterment project on PA 97 will see shoulders widened to 4 feet. New guiderails and signing are also included as part of the project. It was confirmed that PA 97 is not included as part of PennDOT's statewide BicyclePA network.
- Brian noted that Gannett will be cross-referencing municipal zoning ordinances against the Institute of Transportation Engineers' (ITE) Trip General Manual. Some commercial uses that are currently permitted by right may need to be moved from

permitted uses to conditional uses in these districts. Results from the travel demand model runs will help in making these assessments. The containment of sprawl and the preservation of rural character and level of service are important drivers surrounding this potential recommendation.

- Related to this, Waterford Township has discussed the possibility of reducing commercial densities on its portion of PA 97. Bill Brace noted that most of the township's infrastructure is located south of the borough.

Public Involvement #2

With the introduction of additional meetings with the municipalities and the steering committee, the timetable for the next public meeting (originally expected to be held in June) has been postponed for the foreseeable future. For information purposes, Brian distributed copies of a draft Powerpoint presentation that outlined the purpose of the public meeting and the public's role in providing information. These slides will eventually be finalized, based on additional input received from the municipalities and the steering committee members.

Action Plan & Adjournment

The following action plan was discussed and agreed upon:

1. Gannett Fleming will analyze results of the model runs and fine-tune its land use recommendations. Model results will be shared with Erie County and PennDOT as they become available.
2. Gannett Fleming, along with Erie County staff, will meet with the three study area municipalities to discuss and fine-tune the draft land use recommendations.
3. A fifth study steering committee meeting will be held to discuss the draft recommendations and plan for the public meeting, which will also be scheduled at that time.
4. Gannett will make arrangements for the second public meeting, tentatively scheduled to be held at Fort LeBoeuf High School.
5. Erie County will execute a no-cost time extension for Gannett Fleming's contract, which is currently due to expire on June 30.

There being no further business, Brian thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting adjourned at 3:20.

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