Alternatives Presentation Meeting Follow-up

November 4, 2021

In Attendance:

Laura Stone Kristin Higgins Gary Laroche

Daniel Tyler (Brattleboro) Sue Fillion (Brattleboro) Steve Barrett (Brattleboro)

Peter Elwell (Brattleboro) Patrick Moreland (Brattleboro) Elizabeth McLoughlin (Brattleboro)

We discussed impacts to the Smith property:

* It was noted that The Smiths are concerned about the temporary impacts as well as permanent impacts to their property:
  + Temporary Impacts:
    - The Smiths are concerned about impacts such as headlights, dust, and noise during construction
    - We can put up a fence or screen that would block traffic (mitigates both headlights and noise)
    - We talked about swinging the western approach to the temporary bridge out to improve the alignment and alleviate concerns about headlights and dust
  + Permanent impacts:
    - We can compensate them for a permanent fence to make up for the loss of the trees that currently act as a privacy screen
    - It was noted that a landscaping plan will be important
    - The town wants to make sure that where the bridge alignment and the driveway meet it doesn't create a safety concern the Smith driveway (both permanent condition and temporary condition)

Impacts to Melrose Street was discussed:

* The town is asked that any closure of Melrose St to be closely coordinated with the town
* Melrose Street is used for affordable housing for the elderly
  + The Town indicated that much of the affordable housing is being moved to another location, so traffic should be less. Additionally, there are plans to change the Western access to Melrose Street
* As discussed, we can precast the abutments and construct a pile foundation in order to minimize the excavation and closure duration

Sidewalk limits:

* The Town is in support of sidewalks on both sides of the road
* The town asked that the segment of sidewalk to the southwest of the project be constructed to match into the existing sidewalk limits
* As discussed, we will extend the limits of the sidewalk approximately 300 feet to the west of the bridge to match into the existing limits

Discussion about Scope:

* The town is in support of the standard typical section: 11’ wide travel lanes and 10’ wide shoulders
* The traffic volume here is higher than some areas of the Interstate, and based on these high traffic volumes the town agrees and is in support of a using a temporary bridge at this location during construction
* The town supports the construction schedule of 2025 or 2026

Discussion about funding:

* The town has requested that the project be 80% federally funded and 20% state funded (no local share) based on many factors:
  + The bridge carries a large AADT which is higher than some areas of the Interstate
  + This is a major truck route across southern Vermont
  + The Town stated that this route is essential for commerce and really functions as an Interstate
* While the town is asking for their share to be reduced to 0% they have made a point to note that they are still willing to pay for the municipal utility design and relocation
* The Town asked who to write a letter to for requesting the share reduction: chief engineer's office and possibly to the secretary’s level