

## NOTES OF PUBLIC SITE WALK HELD ON **December 19, 2015 at 8:00am-11:00am.**

Maplewood Avenue & Adjacent Areas Project  
Portsmouth, NH  
(GPI Proj. No. MAX-2015086.00)

DATE PREPARED: January 8, 2016

LOCATION: Project Location, Maplewood Avenue, Portsmouth

ATTENDEES: Terry Desmarais, DPW  
Joe Johnson, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.  
Raymond C. Pezzullo, DPW  
Bob White, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.

PURPOSE: Public Site Walk

### Discussion:

The public site walk began at 8:00am at the intersection of Maplewood Avenue at Woodbury Avenue. It was explained to a group of approximately 13 residents that the purpose of the site walk was to solicit additional input regarding concerns and potential ideas along the corridor. The site walk moved easterly from Woodbury Avenue to the project limit at North Mill Pond throughout the morning. Residents were invited to be present at any locations of interest along the corridor. City staff and members of the design team walked the full length of the project in both directions and greeting residents who elected to come out of their homes to discuss their property and concerns relative to the project.

At times there were multiple conversations occurring simultaneously, however, following is a summary of the major points captured during the site walk. If appropriate, responses are shown in **bold**:

1. A resident indicated that the intersection of Woodbury Avenue at Maplewood Avenue should be a gateway into both neighborhoods. Could a 4-way STOP be utilized? This has been asked of the City in the past for various locations along Woodbury Avenue. **This will be reviewed as part of the project. There is specific guidance regarding the implementation of all-way STOP control.**
2. A resident suggested that gateway treatments be implemented at the following locations in order to calm vehicle speeds. These locations might also include gateway/neighborhood signs:
  - a. Woodbury Avenue at Maplewood Avenue
  - b. Woodbury Avenue at Echo Avenue
  - c. Woodbury Avenue at Rockingham Avenue
  - d. Maplewood Avenue at Edmund Avenue

**Potential gateway treatments will be considered at the Maplewood Avenue intersection locations. The locations exclusively on Woodbury Avenue are outside the project scope/limits.**

3. A resident noted that bicyclists have been observed riding on the sidewalks and that this should not be allowed.

4. Could Bartlett Street be signed as an alternative to Maplewood Avenue in order to relieve some of the traffic volumes? **This concern is outside the project scope/limits.**
5. The section of Woodbury Avenue in the vicinity of Maplewood Avenue is very different than the retail area leading to the malls, but residents indicated that the signage to the malls is confusing and contributes to traffic coming to Woodbury Avenue causing added congestion. However, since it is the same street name, it is not uncommon for drivers to become lost looking for the malls within the neighborhood section of the roadway. Perhaps signage on I-95 could be improved for the malls to address this. **This concern is outside the project scope/limits. The City has worked with the NHDOT regarding this issue to improve signage and will continue to do so as projects are reviewed.**
6. There was a general concern for any trees that would need to be removed as part of the project. There are many older trees that may have been part of the Frank Jones Farm which was located in the area. **The project will recommend to remove trees if they are in poor health, and if they pose a threat to public safety. Trees that conflict with proposed utilities will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the design team and city staff. Trees recommended for removal need to be approved by the City's Trees and Greenery Committee, which holds monthly public meetings.**
7. Can we consolidate utilities? There appear to be some redundant utility poles (i.e., both sides of Maplewood Avenue). **The project will include coordination with utility companies to review consolidation opportunities.**
8. Can the dead trees by the Heritage Hill Condominiums be removed as part of the project? **It was indicated that the trees in question are on private property although they may require trimming if deemed necessary by the utilities.**
9. People are not walking on the sidewalks and can be seen walking in the roadway instead. **It is anticipated that the project will improve sidewalk conditions such that pedestrians will want to use them.**
10. There were some at the site walk that supported the idea of a T-Type intersection at Woodbury Avenue and Maplewood Avenue. Several residents stated a significant bias against a roundabout. **The project will review various alternatives for this intersection with the objective of calming travel speeds, improving safety for all users, using the intersection as a way to set the speed and tone for the entrance of travelling traffic onto Maplewood, and signaling a neighborhood gateway.**
11. There was concern regarding a small storm drain discharge that conveys water from Woodbury Avenue to near 1240 Maplewood Avenue. **This will be reviewed as part of the project.**
12. There was concern about the storm drain located in the vicinity of 1240 Maplewood Avenue. A homeowner noted that they are often required to keep the drain clear of debris otherwise there are ponding issues. The owner also noted problems with the sewer. **The project will improve and is anticipated to replace much of the existing storm water infrastructure to ensure there is enough capacity in the system. Likewise, the sewer will be evaluated and replaced as necessary which may include the laterals to adjacent homes.**

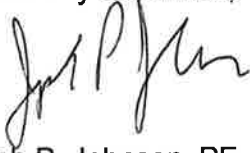
13. At 1179 Maplewood Avenue there is a drainage grate located within the sidewalk which is a problem for accessibility. **This will be reviewed as part of the project. The project will also look at utility pole placement within the sidewalk to ensure ADA requirements are satisfied.**
14. At 1135 Maplewood Avenue there appears to be a property pin/bound located in the sidewalk. **This will be reviewed as part of the project.**
15. The width of curb cuts will be reviewed to make sure they are appropriate and in accordance with City standards. **Noted.**
16. The former site where "Flowers by Leslie" was located has drainage issues that should be considered as part of the project. **Noted.**
17. At the intersection of Maplewood Avenue at Dennett Street, there is a utility pole that is very close to the curb line for vehicles taking a right turn from Dennett to Maplewood. **The pole location will be reviewed as part of the project.**
18. The owner at 940 Maplewood Avenue asked about the time frame for construction. He had observed construction vehicles over the past few days. **It was explained that the work being observed was associated with the sub-surface exploration. Project construction is likely to begin in the spring of 2017.**
19. The owner at 903 Maplewood Avenue had concerns about drainage sheeting off of Maplewood Avenue and down his driveway. He wanted to ensure the project would address this. He also recommended additional 25 mph speed limit signs. He noted that in the past there had been a fish-eye mirror used at the Route 1 By-Pass Off-Ramp which assisted in seeing approaching vehicles. **The project will review all of these concerns to the extent possible.**
20. Traffic calming should be reviewed at Edmund Avenue. **Noted.**
21. The City has a Tree Committee that must review any tree removal within the City layout. The City also has a Tree Arborist that is employed at the Department of Public Works who will be consulted if additional input is needed on tree removals. **Noted.**
22. The owner at 769 Maplewood Avenue did not want to lose any on-street parking available in front of her home. **The on-street parking will likely be impacted by the project and a study will be conducted to measure the demand.**
23. The owners at 2 Beechwood Street expressed concern about the existing drainage configuration adjacent to their driveway. The catch basin is currently located too low and removed from the road. The neighbor's yard will flood. **This drainage situation will be reviewed as part of the project. New curbing and better placement of the drainage structure will be explored.**
24. There is a hydrant at the corner of Beechwood Street and Cutts Street that is rather exposed and subject to being hit. **Noted.**
25. The existing sidewalk on Cutts Street is in poor shape. Consideration should be given to extending it to the existing path that provides access to the Market Street Extension. **Noted.**

26. The condominium access near the intersection of Cutts Street and Maplewood Avenue is a problem given its alignment and proximity to the intersection. **Noted.**
27. The resident at 960 Maplewood Avenue indicated that traffic is too fast on Maplewood Avenue. He was in support of bike lanes into the downtown. He expressed concern about drainage entering onto his property via his driveway opening. **Noted.**
28. No residents were present to discuss the area from the northbound Route 1 By-Pass ramp to the North Mill Pond.

These notes constitute my recollection of the Public Site Walk to the best of my knowledge.

Please note that this site walk was an information gathering session. Specific comments may not necessarily be included in the design, but the overall concerns will be considered and evaluated, and, where possible, incorporated into the conceptual design plans.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph P. Johnson, PE, PTOE  
Senior Project Manager

cc: City Staff Attendees