
MEMORANDUM

TO: Files

FROM: Jason Beaudet, P.E.
CMA Engineers, Inc.

RE: Portsmouth 41752
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Project
Elwyn Road Side Path
CMA #1194

SUBJECT: Proposed Action Meeting

MEETING DATE: September 15, 2021

On the above date, a hybrid Proposed Action Meeting was held via Zoom and in person at the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers, City Hall, Municipal Complex, 1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth, NH at 6:00 pm. A meeting notice was publicly posted, and attendees of the Local Concern Meeting were notified. The following project representatives attended:

Peter Rice	City of Portsmouth, Director of Public Works
Peter Britz	City of Portsmouth, Interim Planning Director
Stefanie Casella	City of Portsmouth, Planner 1
Dave DesFosses	City of Portsmouth, Construction Technical Supervisor
Philip Corbett, PE	CMA Engineers, Inc.
Jason Beaudet, PE	CMA Engineers, Inc.

The primary purpose of the Proposed Action Meeting was to review the project and alternative analysis that had been completed since the Local Concerns Meeting and present the Proposed Action to the public. A sign-in sheet was available for in-person attendees to provide their contact information and remote attendees provided their contact information when registering for the Zoom meeting (see attached sign-in sheet). Peter Rice gave a brief introduction of the project and introduced the project representatives listed above. Jason Beaudet presented the project purpose & need, project area/potential issues addressed, local concerns meeting outcomes, project development process, alternative analysis, proposed action, and preliminary schedule. The alternatives presented in detail are as follows:

- No Build
- Alternative 1: Adjacent Side Path
- Alternative 2: Offset Side Path
- Add Alt. A: Edgewood Road Pedestrian Crossing
- Add Alt. B: Grant Avenue Pedestrian Crossing
- Add Alt. C: Taft Road Pedestrian Crossing
- Add Alt. D: Harding Road Pedestrian Crossing

Alternative 1, Add Alt. A, Add Alt. C, and Add Alt. D were selected as the proposed action. Upon completion of the presentation (see attached presentation), attendees could provide input. The following summarizes the input received from the public:

- **Path Construction Adjacent to Road** – More detail was requested on the design of the path where it will be adjacent to Elwyn Road (in front of the Langdon House). The path design in this location will be separated from Elwyn Road by a 5-foot grassed panel. Curbing will not be installed to allow the current sheet flow drainage pattern to remain. This panel will help address contra-flow issues.
- **Lafayette Road Fourth Sidewalk** – Desire was expressed for the addition of a fourth crosswalk across the last remaining unsignalized leg (north leg on Lafayette Road) at the Lafayette Road/Elwyn Road/ Peverly Hill Road intersection. At the time the intersection was reconstructed, approximately 10 years ago, it was studied and reviewed with NHDOT. NHDOT only approved a single crossing of Lafayette Road at its current location. It was acknowledged that the development in the immediate area has and is still changing, which might warrant the addition of the fourth crosswalk. Efforts related to developing the additional crossing would be part of a separate project.
- **Path Access for Bicycles** – Desires were expressed for bike appropriate access at both the east and west ends of the project to accommodate/encourage use by experienced bicyclist traveling east/west on Elwyn Road. The project has only been conceptually developed and will look to incorporate bike appropriate access at both ends of the project during the preliminary design phase.
- **Elwyn Side Path Eastern Extension** – Desires were expressed to extend the side path easterly to connect to the Urban Forestry Center's third gate, which provides connection to additional pedestrian/bicycle/recreational facilities. The original scope did not include the extended path location and the current budget cannot support it. If additional funding could be appropriated, the path could be extended.
- **Preservation of Existing Conditions** – Support was expressed to avoid disturbance of the mature trees and stone walls to the extent possible. Desire was also expressed to research and confirm the location of any graves and avoid disturbance. The proposed action provides the least disturbance to both mature trees and stone walls. There are no known graves within the proposed project footprint. Through the project's environmental/cultural/historical coordination, it has been determined that a Phase IA archaeological study needs to be completed, which will provide additional insight related archaeology within the project.
- **Harding Road and Taft Road Crossings** – It was suggested that the crossing at Harding Road be eliminated because of its proximity to Taft Road. The savings from the reduction in crossings could then be used to possibly extend the path to the Urban Forestry Center's third gate.
- **Eminent Domain Takings** – It was questioned what, if any, property would need to be taken by eminent domain in order to construct the project. The project will only impact two property owners, the Urban Forestry Center and a single private property. Initial discussions have been had with each and they are both in support of the project and willing to working with the City related to projects land needs. It is envisioned that the project will require permanent easements on both properties. The LPA process has a prescriptive process for the attainment of easements which provides just compensation to property owners. Additionally, the Urban Forestry Center property is controlled by the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and has a prescribed process relate to any type of transference of land, which the project team has discussed and coordinate with the Urban Forestry Center. The use of eminent domain on this project is not anticipated.
- **Meeting Recording** – Meeting video can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=il-stlWt-Rg>

End of Memorandum