

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

ROUTE 108 IMPROVEMENTS **COMPLETE STREETS**

Presented by Shanna Saunders and Mike Bobinsky

June 20, 2016 - 6:15 P.M.

Councilors Pepin, Soldati, Dumont, Messier, Witham, Sprague and Cameron were present.

Mayor Hilliard opened the workshop at 6:25 pm.

Director of Planning and Community Development, Shanna Saunders, and Director of Public Works and Utilities, Mike Bobinsky, provided a Power Point presentation of Complete Streets: “a philosophy that guides Community, planning and transportation agencies to consider and incorporate safe access to destinations for everyone, regardless of age or ability or mode of transportation, when feasible.” <https://www.nh.gov/dot>

They spoke of several communities in New Hampshire which have adopted “Complete Street” policies as well as six elements of a Complete Street.

Mike Bobinsky reported on New Hampshire’s Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan, the scope of which is “complete streets improvements”: for Route 108 encompassing Dover, Somersworth and Rochester. He spoke of themes and challenges and schedules moving forward. Roundabouts are possible in two locations along Route 108 in Somersworth: at the intersection of West High Street, Whitehouse and Route 108, and also at the intersection of Blackwater and Route 108.

Councilor Messier commented that he used to be against roundabouts but he now probably supports it. He alluded to sidewalk maintenance being on his radar. He wondered, when this is complete, if the State turns it over to the community. Mr. Bobinsky believes that the landscaping and sidewalks would be turned over. Mr. Messier will have a problem with forcible land acquisition.

Councilor Witham generally supports this endeavor. As a Planning Board Council Rep. he sees that sidewalks make a lot of sense. As far as the roundabouts, he said that traffic capacity maintenance will be the make or break for them. He said that land acquisition conversations need to take place sooner rather than later, especially as projects develop.

Shanna Saunders expanded on the use of sidewalks, saying that employees can use them as well as customers.

Councilor Sprague commented that the State comes in and puts everything in and (the communities) are left with maintenance of sidewalks and landscapes. It is interesting that the comments here are the same as those they heard in Concord. Land acquisition: there is a process, appeals, etc, but at the end of the day the State can take land.

Councilor Sprague asked the Mayor to charge PW or Finance or both to look at this, or have a separate workshop so that they can come up with legislation as three bodies (Tri City) to put to the State.

Councilor Pepin likes the idea of three lanes with a turning lane in the center, especially near the medical facilities, Tri City Dodge, Funcenter, etc.

Councilor Cameron wondered about crosswalks and sidewalks.

Councilor Soldati was concerned about bus stops. She thinks it looks unsafe where people stand on the side of the road now. She thinks doing this is great and that roundabouts add beauty and “coziness.” She is pleased that the Tri City Coalition is in place. She said that is a lot of foresight on the part of our Mayor.

Councilor Dumont said that this presents a great opportunity. He does think we have a weakness in irrigating our green spaces, He thinks that should be a priority.

The Mayor closed the workshop at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise B. Brellis, Deputy City Clerk