

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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LEE AREA TRAFFIC STUDY

2nd PUBLIC MEETING – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2008

6:30 p.m. at the Lee Elementary School Cafeteria

MEETING SUMMARY

Participants: See attached list

1. Introduction/Background

BRPC Executive Director Nat Karns introduced BRPC staff, Working Group members, MHD staff and Town representatives.

2. Identification of Alternatives

Mr. Karns presented on the identified alternatives. To begin, BRPC staff and Working Group members identified twenty-seven alternatives spanning from West Stockbridge to the Becket/Otis/Blanford Town Lines. A map of the alternatives and an explanation of the alternatives are available on the BRPC website. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was made available to each participant at the sign-in table.

3. Evaluation and Screening of Alternatives

Mr. Karns presented on the means by which BRPC staff have screened and evaluated each alternative.

The following coarse screening criteria were used to evaluate the full range of alternatives:

- Assessment of Environmental Impacts
 - Endangered Species Habitat
 - Water Resources (Lakes, Wetlands, Rivers)
- Assessment of Residential Impacts
 - Buildings
- Reduction in Regional Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT)
- Reduction in Regional Vehicle Hours of Travel (VHT)
- Diversion of North-East Traffic Through Lee

At the May 6th Working Group meeting, the Working Group determined to carry thirteen alternatives forward for further analysis. These thirteen alternatives were: Alternatives 1, 2A, 2B, 3, 3A, 4B, 5, 6A, 6B, 6D, 7A, 8B, and 10.

The following fine screening criteria were used to evaluate the remaining thirteen alternatives:

- Assessment of Environmental Impacts
 - Water Resources (Lakes, Wetlands, Streams)
 - Stream/Wetland Crossings
 - Floodplains
 - Endangered Species Habitat
 - BioMap Core Habitat and Supporting Natural Landscape
 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
 - Conservation Assessment and Prioritization System (CAPS)

- Assessment of Land Use Impacts
 - Buildings
 - Residential Land Use
 - Commercial/Industrial Land
 - Cultural Sites
 - Historic Sites
 - Open Spaces
 - Prime Agricultural Soil in Existing Agricultural Land
 - Environmental Justice
- Assessment of Transportation Impacts
 - Changes in Average Daily Traffic (ADT) and Truck Traffic at three locations in downtown Lee:
 - Center St./Route 20 (West of Main St.)
 - Main St./Route 20 (South of Center St.)
 - Housatonic St./Route 20 (North of Exit Ramp)
 - Sharp Turns
 - Slopes greater than 8%

At the August 4th Working Group meeting, the Working Group determined to carry five alternatives forward for further analysis. These five alternatives were: Alternatives 1, 2A, 3A, 5 and 10.

4. Public Comment/Questions

There was time at the end of the presentation for questions from the audience.

5. Next Steps in the Study

BRPC staff related to attendees that the next steps in the study will be to analyze each remaining alternative in depth. This analysis will include an analysis of 2030 build capacity and level of service analysis at eight key intersections as well as an analysis of the north-south travel time. The Working Group will continue to meet and the next public meeting will be held later this year. BRPC plans to recommend a potential solution to the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPO) in the fall. Comment forms were made available to participants. Additional comments were welcomed by mail, phone or email. A tally of comments is ongoing.

Participants
Lee Area Traffic Study 2nd Public Meeting
Wednesday, August 27, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.
Lee Elementary School Cafeteria

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
LaBelle, Gale	Becket Planning Board
Stuhlmann, Barbara	Becket Historical Commission
Biron, Peg	Lee Resident
Coty, John Jr.	Lee Resident
Forbes, Bruce	Lee Resident
Forbes, G.	Lee Resident
Forfa, Ed	Lee Resident
Glidden, Ron	Lee Police Department
Leahey, Elizabeth	Lee Resident
Noonan, William	Lee Resident
Schmidinger, E.	Lee Resident
Therrien, Robert	Lee Resident
Vinette, Rich	Lee Community Development Corporation
Walter, Tim	Lee Resident
Spencer, Judy	Kampoosa Stewardship Committee
Begley, Sarah "Sally"	Stockbridge Resident
Dartford, Edward	Stockbridge Resident
Drabik, Richard	Stockbridge Resident
Dutil, Arthur	Stockbridge Resident
Goldstein, Henry	Stockbridge Resident
Goldstein, Linda	Stockbridge Resident
Kaiser, Helga	Stockbridge Resident
Kaiser, John	Stockbridge Resident
Kronenberg, Margaret	Stockbridge Resident
Kronenberg, Irving	Stockbridge Resident
Page, Brandi	Stockbridge Resident
Rafferty, Keith M.	Stockbridge Resident
Schiller, Len	Stockbridge Resident
Schwartz, Daniel	Stockbridge Resident
Socha, Nancy	Stockbridge Resident
Hudson, Sarah	Tyringham Planning Board

Working Group Members

Emmett, Bryan	BNRC
Frieri, Peter	MassHighway - District 1
LaBelle, Stephen	Becket Resident
LePrevost, Jerry	Lee Traffic Commission
Marsden, Jorja	Stockbridge Select Board Administrative Assistant
Nason, Bob	Lee Town Administrator
Shippey, George	Stockbridge Select Board

BRPC Staff

Church, Alison	BRPC Transportation Program Manager
Karns, Nat	BRPC Executive Director
Koirala, Anuja	BRPC Senior Transportation Planner
Neumann, Christine	BRPC Transportation Planner