



Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, P.C.

New Road Corridor Master Plan

Ad Hoc Stakeholder Committee Meeting Summary
August 22, 2018

The first meeting of the New Road Ad Hoc Stakeholder Committee was held on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 6:30 at DNREC's Shoreline & Waterway Services Building at 901 Pilottown Road.

Attendance list is attached.

The purpose of the meeting was to kick off the New Road Corridor Master Plan and to discuss issues and opportunities for consideration in the planning process. The following meeting summary provides information that was discussed at the meeting and additional information in response to questions raised during the meeting.

Role and Formation of the Ad Hoc Stakeholder Committee

Questions about the formation, role and responsibilities of Ad Hoc Committee were noted during and after the meeting. The following supplements the information provided at the meeting to address these questions:

The Ad Hoc Stakeholder Committee was formed to serve as a sounding board for the development of the plan. Input from the Committee members will be used to focus the planning effort on those recommendations that are likely to be more broadly supported and to identify areas where further and more detailed study or alternatives would be needed prior to implementation.

In an ideal world, the planners would be able to talk with each and every person along the road. However, within the budget and timeframe of this process, that would not be possible. Instead, planners have formed an Ad Hoc Committee to represent the broadest range of viewpoints along the corridor. Committee members were identified that represent Homeowner's Associations, owners and/or developers associated with large properties and active projects on the corridor, conservation/preservation organizations and interests, business owners, and agency representatives with planned projects or management responsibilities in the corridor. Additional membership was requested to represent the points of view of non-HOA residents of New Road and to increase the diversity of groups represented.

Two public meetings are planned. The first meeting would review the preliminary ideas and opportunities generated through the ad hoc committee. At this time, additional ideas and suggestions that were not identified by the ad hoc committee could be added to the preliminary concepts and incorporated into the project for consideration. The second meeting would be to review the draft recommendations as part of a joint City/County public meeting, or other jurisdictional venue as determined by the City and County.

Overview

Jim Klein and Jeff Greene introduced the project with a presentation summarizing the purpose of the project, ongoing and active projects in the corridor, transportation issues and land use/community design issues that will be discussed as part of the master planning process. [LINK TO PRESENTATION](#)

Discussion

Three questions were used to guide discussion:

- 1- From your perspective, what is your vision for New Road - in one sentence or phrase?**
- 2- What are the obstacles that are making it difficult to achieve the desired vision?**
- 3- What needs to change in order to overcome those obstacles?**

The last fifteen minutes of the meeting were reserved for public comment.

Common themes that emerged from this discussion:

Vision

- New Road should be recognized as the slow and scenic route
- Overall goal should be to increase safety for all users while maintaining bucolic and diverse nature of New Road
- The capacity of New Road should be a factor in making regional/community wide transportation decisions
- Alternative approaches to managing its capacity should be considered before increasing road and intersection capacities
- Where practical, the multi-use path should be directed toward the rail trail or as an independent alignment coordinated with adjoining development projects, instead of immediately adjacent to the roadway
- New Road should serve the emergency evacuation needs of nearby neighborhoods (*from public comment/questionnaire*)

Obstacles

- The influence of property rights plays in shaping land use decisions
- The lack of innovative models for community development
- Limitations on DelDOT's right-of-way acquisition laws that constrain creative approaches to accommodating the needs of all users (Five Points Study is proposing changes to state legislation to remedy this)
- Increasing flood elevations associated with both sea level rise and the increasing intensity of storms and storm surges
- Limited availability of innovative approaches to stormwater management that serve to preserve roadside trees and/or reduce the amount of disturbance
- Time available to work with active development projects is limited
- Time that it takes to enact changes to the Comp Plan and Zoning regulations

Ideas to Overcome Obstacles

- New Road does not have to be the same treatment throughout, but can be organized into distinct sections or character areas
- Take ideas and fit them together to achieve vision

- Continue to work together in collaborative approach to come up with creative, out of the box ideas
- Five Points Study outcomes will have an affect on New Road - attend 8-27 meeting to give input on priorities for broader area

Public Comment

- Request for more diversity on committee
- Request for residents (non-HOA) to be on committee
- Request for recording of meetings so public that wants to get involved can see what is involved
- Historic Preservation issues need to be addressed
- New Road is scary for bikers and peds

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