

**ROUTE 7A REHAB
ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (“RAC”)**

Minutes

Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6:00 PM

Present: Mary Bradway, Rus Davis, Christy Frank, Alan Friedman, Tom Goldsworthy (Secretary), Bob Haight (Chair), Jeanne Mettler (Town Board Liaison).

Absent: Jacqueline Fallon

The Road Advisory Committee met with Dean Knox of the Columbia County Department of Public Works (DPW), lead agency on the Route 7A road rehabilitation project, to discuss the current status.

He stated that 10 design consultant firms have submitted Expressions of Interest under the DPW’s Request for Quotation, and that he expected to select one for our project by mid-November. The DPW would then negotiate (a) Scope of Work, (b) Task List, and (c) fee with the selected firm. Once negotiated, the DPW would submit the proposed design contract to the County Board of Supervisors for approval. He expected the design consultant to begin work in January or February 2020.

Mr. Knox gave an overview of the work to be done. The consultant will begin a process that involves information gathering, community input, design and engineering work, rights-of-way clearances, and a “Final Design Report” as a deliverable. The Final Design Report will lead to a Detailed Design Report which will be used to solicit bids from construction contractors.

He explained that creation of the Final Design Report involves several steps. First, the consultant will survey all existing conditions within a 100 ft wide path of the project. The consultant will make an inventory of all property and business owners abutting the project. The consultant will solicit public input from each property and business owners, as well as from the committee and the general public. The consultant will present some initial design suggestions to review with the committee. The consultant will also proceed with acquiring the necessary rights-of-way to construct the project which might involve negotiating easements or property acquisitions, and if so would entail appraisals, title searches and approvals. The consultant will also have the necessary engineering studies completed to prepare the specifications for the project.

He estimated that the project time schedule would be approximately as follows:

- 2 years to complete the Final Design Report (estimated early 2022)
- 2-3 months to complete the Detailed Design Report (Spring 2022)
- 6 months - 1 year to acquire all necessary Rights of Way (late 2022/early 2023)
- 3-4 months to acquire bids and select construction contractor (Spring 2023)
- 9 months of construction work during April-Nov of each year (completion mid/late 2024)

The committee questioned the scope of what items are included in the DPW's project budget. Mr. Knox stated that all pavement and drainage are included. He expects all existing roads to follow their current paths, although existing traffic circulation around the clock will need to be modified to improve safety. The road height level will likely not change much. Curbing and catch basins will be installed to correct drainage. All existing sidewalks will be replaced and possibly extended in some areas. Utilities will not be moved unless the design makes it necessary to complete the project. Power lines will not be buried.

He stated that the consultant will carefully review a number of design alternatives for the traffic flow around the clock with the committee. In his opinion, a one-lane roundabout around the clock would perhaps make sense, but a careful design study will be necessary to accommodate large vehicles. It is not clear if the clock should be moved or remain in its existing location, which will depend on the design selected. A case can be made for upgrading the electrical supply to the clock.

Mr. Knox informed the committee that decorative street lighting, and street furniture (benches, trash cans, bike racks, etc.) are not typically included in the project's budget. But accommodations to provide the infrastructure for these (electric hook-ups, bases and pads, etc.) have sometimes been included. Other "betterments" such as extending sidewalks into side streets can be considered by the Town at its own cost, which would likely be advantageous to do in conjunction with this construction project

The committee provided Mr. Knox a draft "Consultant Discussion Document" that outlines the issues and concerns the committee has about the project. It includes thoughts on drainage, parking, traffic flow around the clock, and sidewalks, crosswalks & pedestrian access.

The committee will meet with the selected design consultant at our next meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Goldsworthy, Secretary