

**Brandon Select Board Special Meeting Segment 6**  
**October 16, 2013**

**NOTE: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at the subsequent board meeting.**

**In Attendance:** Maria Ammatuna, Ethan Swift, Devon Fuller, Dave Atherton, Blaine Cliver

**Also in Attendance:** Robin Bennett, Michael Servetas, Jenny Austin, Bernie Carr, Lee Kahrs, Richard Baker, Jaron Borg, Robert Black, Art Doty, Ray Counter, Steve Carr, Tom Whittaker

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Devon Fuller, Chair at 8:56 AM with introductions of the Board members and Michael Servetas and Jenny Austin from Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc (VHB).

**2. Brandon Segment 6 discussion**

Michael Servetas opened the presentation with a flow chart of the Union & Carver Streets intersection project. He stated that Phase A is 25% concept plan after meetings and permits. Phase B project design is the 60% plan or the impact to property and utilities which took into consideration property owners concerns. This plan was approved by VTRANS in 2011 and the next step is securing the right of ways.

To have an alternate plan at this point would have to go through act 250 again and could delay the project up to a year or more and would be costly. He said that there was concern of getting trucks through the intersection as they are longer than they used to be and tightening the intersection will also slow traffic and may require additional lanes. The plan needs to service pedestrians and bikes as well as vehicles and he stated that idling vehicles would create a pollution problem.

Devon Fuller asked about eliminating the traffic light proposed at Union & Carver as he has heard from the community that they don't want it.

Jenny Austin said that the CLD signal warrant analysis was met and there originally was a plan for a second traffic light at Park St by the monument. The Park St light could be removed without an issue however the other light is more important and would have more impact.

Ethan Swift said that he respects the work of the DBA. He also said that it would be a minor change for Act 250 to remove the Park St light.

Robert Black addressed the Board suggesting a curb line change so as not to hold the project up or affect the utilities and it should be a simple request to Act 250.

Blaine Cliver stated that the design now is not a good solution. Getting trucks through town is not the priority; safe streets are. He also asked what would happen if Hannaford built a bigger store at their present location.

Mike Servetas said that Hannaford would have to work it into their design.

Devon Fuller asked how the other projects like Bridge 114 fit into the plan.

Mike Servetas said that it could be worth delaying 6 months so as to coordinate things.

Devon Fuller said the design is pretty good with great cross walks, the park back to a good size and the light on Park St removed, but there are pieces that could be improved.

Mike Servetas said that the right of way is usually the hardest part and timing is difficult.

Blaine Cliver said what's really difficult is the impact on the merchants.

Ethan Swift asked how much more discussion is needed. CLD and VHB are looking for guidance from the Board on how to proceed.

Maria Ammatuna questioned how much money was left for construction and commented that they don't know the cost of any of the projects.

Blaine Cliver stated that there must have been design changes due to Irene and also wondered how much of the original \$76,000.00 sent to the town was left.

Steve Carr said that things shouldn't be put off any longer. If additional funding is needed it would have to go back to the townspeople for a vote.

Jenny Austen said that the changes they are talking about don't sound like much as they discuss it, but would be very costly as to time and expense. She said that the state is looking to get this project done. She said that anyone wanting more information could go to [www.brandonprojects.com](http://www.brandonprojects.com) and there is also a link on the town website. She then went over a handout that broke down the cost thus far.

Mike Servetas said that utility coordination is time consuming on such a long project due to changes in contacts. Each time there is a new contact person they have to be brought up to speed and adds to the delay.

Devon Fuller mentioned the natural gas line is coming down from the north and wondered if the town should consider this for the down town.

Mike Servetas said that he would look into it.

Blaine Cliver noted that \$11,000.00 has been spent on four right of ways and there are several more to do, so that alone will be quite expensive.

Jenny Austen said that they will work with VTRANS to keep the cost down.

### **3. Waterline**

Devon Fuller said that the waterline project is taking too long and asked VHB for assistance in moving things along.

Dave Atherton said he hopes they will be able to keep Brandon “open” while these projects are going on and to keep businesses and townspeople informed.

Mike Servetas said that they will keep the websites updated with information on closures, etc.

Blaine Cliver said that he would like to see traffic stopped outside of the down center while work is going on to reduce the amount of fumes.

Mike Servetas asked if the town would be open to them working at night. It would be an increase in cost, but would most likely shorten the work time considerably and there would be no need for traffic control. It should be a wash.

Steve Carr mentioned again the importance of communication with the businesses.

Maria Ammatuna said that she has had several calls from people along Route 7 with shaking and water coming out of their foundations. She wonders if reducing the speed of the trucks would help and questioned if a study had been done.

Mike Servetas said there has been no study, unfortunately trucks and old buildings do not mix. They will put something in the contract about reducing vibration as much as possible.

Maria Ammatuna asked if it would necessary for detours and if so does the Board or town manager know if the roads are in good shape to handle the additional traffic.

Richard Baker said that Route 7 was closed for 4 days after Irene and Omya survived. Having the road closed could mean days opposed to leaving it open and taking several months.

Devon Fuller asked if the town would have a say in what the traffic light would look like.

Mike Servetas said he will discuss this with CLD and VTRANS.

Ethan Swift asked the status of Bridge 114.

Mike Servetas said they are still working on it and nothing specific yet.

Richard Baker said that CLD is not currently under contract to do the bridge work.

Blaine Cliver said that perhaps there is another company.

Maria Ammatuna wants the Board to sit down with Mike Servetas to figure out the scope of things to cover the whole project rather than piece by piece. She also wants Robin Bennett to relate to VHB what was discussed at Monday's meeting as no one from their firm was there. It was noted that VHB and CLD should be in better communication.

**Motion** by Dave Atherton/ Maria Ammatuna to leave the Union/Carver St intersection configuration as is. **The motion passed unanimously – 5 to zero.**

**Motion** by Maria Ammatuna/Blaine Cliver to adopt the agenda as presented. **The motion passed unanimously – 5 to zero.**

#### **4. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Devon Fuller/Maria /Ammatuna to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 10:40 AM. **The motion passed unanimously - 5 to zero.**

Respectfully submitted,

Luanne Merkert  
Recording Secretary