

City of Sanford



**From the Desk of
Steven R. Buck
City Manager**



Memorandum

To: City Council
Subject: Manager's Report for December 2nd, 2014
Date: December 2nd, 2014

MDOT Scoping Meeting Route 109 Traffic Light Upgrades –

Administration participated in a scoping meeting with Region 1 MDOT Project Manager Brian Keezer and VHB Consultant Project Manager Chris Bobay on pending improvements to the Route 109 corridor traffic lights and lights leading to Route 109.

Project Overview and Phasing

- The traffic signal modernization project consists of upgrading signal equipment and pedestrian facilities to meet current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for 12 existing signalized intersections. The intersections are as follows: Route 109 at Walmart, Jagger Mill Rd, Shaws, Bank/Westview, Mardens, Emerson School /Emery St, Washington St, Lebanon/Winter, River/Cottage/Winter, Routes 11A/224 (Springvale), Cottage/Grammar/Shaws Ridge and Pleasant/River/Shaws Ridge.
- The project is presently 100% funded through design. Steve Landry (MaineDOT State Traffic Engineer) is seeking approval for \$1.5 million dollars in construction funding beginning in the 2016 work plan; however, given the size of the traffic signal modernization project and anticipated reduction in available funds for these type of projects in 2016, this project is likely to be phased.
- The City questioned whether existing flashers (ex., Route 4 at School Street) could be added to the project for upgrade to signalized control. MaineDOT noted only the 12 listed intersections are included in the project.
- The City noted that consideration of information presented in the Central York County Connections Study (CYCCS, <http://maine.gov/mdot/planningstudies/cycc/index.shtml>) and Complete Streets program should be given in the signal modernization design.
- The City also noted the potential update to their comprehensive plan and a traffic impact fee ordinance.
- Project base plans will be developed from existing MaineDOT Right-of-Way (R/W) plans, available GIS information, and overlay with supplemental digitizing based on aerial photography. City staff noted that Tom Burns maintains a comprehensive GIS database that can be used in support of the project. The City will provide Tom's contact information to VHB.

- There will be 3 formal opportunities for the City to provide feedback on the project, listed as follows:
 - o At the Preliminary Design Report (PDR) milestone submission,
 - o At the Public Informational Meeting (if desired by the City), and
 - o At the PS&E (Final Design) submission.
- The City prefers a Public Informational Meeting (PIM) on the project in lieu of simple plan display and notification with the City receiving and forwarding written comments (if applicable) to VHB and MaineDOT.

Project Schedule

The Project schedule was discussed with the following tentative milestones highlighted:

- **JUNE 2015** - VHB/MaineDOT would need to know if the City would like to pursue potential signal interconnection using City owned fiber optic cable (proposed for installation along Route 109 and Cottage Street).
- **AUGUST 2015** - Preliminary Design Report (PDR) and 50% plan submission to MaineDOT and City.
- **OCTOBER 2015** - City Public Informational Meeting
- **NOVEMBER 2015** – Deadline for firm commitment to use City owned fiber optic cable for potential interconnection so Final Design plans may be modified accordingly.
- **JUNE 2016** – Utilities certified and Municipal Agreement sent to Sanford for signing.
- **AUGUST 2016** - Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PSE) 98% submission to MaineDOT and City.
- **SEPTEMBER 7, 2016** – Phase 1 project advertising (number of intersections in Phase 1 TBD based on funding secured in 2016 work plan).

Sanford Regional Dispatch Contract:

The Contract that was ratified by the City Council on November 18th has finally been signed by the Unit. The Unit ratified at the same time as the City, yet their Representative had lingering concerns with changes as he came late into the process. After confirmation with the City's notes as well as the Union's attorney's notes, the Agreement and language were accepted as ratified. HR is now making all necessary changes pursuant to the New Agreement.

Mayor's Coalition:

Deputy Mayor Herlihy and City Manager Buck attended the latest Mayor's Coalition Meeting held in Augusta on November 19th, 2014. A partial list of Advocacy Efforts were developed to include:

1. Federal Delegation Topics:
 - a. Economic Development
 - b. Infrastructure Needs – Highways and Bridges
 - c. Public Transit Funding
 - d. Water/Wastewater
 - e. Affordable Housing
 - f. Education and Title 1 Funding in Maine
 - g. Medicare Reimbursements versus other States having higher reimbursements
 - h. EDA Funding and stimulation programs

- i. Federal Waters of the United States – expansion of EPA jurisdiction to inland waters
2. State Advocacy and areas to develop –
 - a. Restoration/Preservation of Revenue Sharing
 - b. Reductions of detrimental tax shifting and other unfunded mandates
 - c. Homestead Exemption as targeted Property Tax Relief
 - d. General Assistance to be administered and fully funded by the State
 - e. Fire Service Fees as Local Option
 - f. Skilled Workforce Development
 - g. Investment Capital and EB-5 Program
 - h. Broadband expansion for the future
 - i. Education for Pre-K, Title 1, Impacts of Charter School Funding, Teacher Retirement

The Mayor's Coalition will reconvene after the cloture date to review pending legislation and work on their platform. A series of meetings is also being scheduled with various Commissioners to discuss matters specific to the 12 Cities within the Coalition.

School Construction:

The City Council will hold a Public Hearing on December 16th, 2014 pursuant to Title 30-A for the dissemination of information on the pending January 13th, 2014 School Construction Referendum. The Public Hearing offers the opportunity for further review of the information contained on the Ballot, the contents and supporting information, and the implications of a "yes" or "no" vote on one or both of the two referendum questions. Members from the Core Building Committee will be present for the meeting as will the Architect.

Senator Elect David Woodsome:

City Administrators and Growth Council Director, as well as Mayor Cote, met with recently elected Senator David Woodsome to discuss matters of importance to Sanford and the Region. The Senator Elect was very appreciative of the opportunity and time as we discussed the preservation of Revenue Sharing, service center tax disparages, education funding, transportation, broadband, and a host of other topics. Senator elect Woodsome is eager to start his new duties and pledges to serve our Region well, representing all interests.

Sanford Broadband:

Administration recently held a phone conference with Tilson towards the development of an RFP for construction and operations of a Fiber Optic Network System. Ultimately the RFP will identify the construction costs and lease back options allowing the City to finalize the net contribution beyond leverage funding and private investments. Once the outcome of the RFP is known, the Growth Council will reconvene with the City Council to discuss options for future construction.

Ambulance Services:

The City authorized a communication to be sent to the Town of Lebanon extending assistance in restructuring their Volunteer Ambulance Company while also setting a charge for services rendered by Sanford in the interim. The Town of Milton, NH has also sent the same communications to Lebanon with the same effective dates as the City of Sanford's as the Town

wanted to send their own letter as opposed to a sign-on with Sanford. It is our hope that Sanford and Milton can become part of a comprehensive solution with the Town of Lebanon to address their ambulance service needs.

Chief Benotti has continued to meet with the Lebanon Rescue Chief to review options and provide clarification that Sanford will only charge for primary response, not when Lebanon is on scene or has already been dispatched and is already in service. We believe there are cooperative solutions and that the current situation has highlighted the need to actively pursue such options regionally.