

Stillwater U.S. Route 4 Corridor Plan Study Advisory Committee (SAC)

Meeting 3

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

4:30 PM, Stillwater Town Hall

Meeting Notes

Attending: Ernest Martin (Mayor, Village of Stillwater), Greg Connors (Supervisor, Town of Stillwater), Kathie Stoddard (Town of Stillwater), Annetta Melber (Village of Stillwater), Kate Maynard (Saratoga PLAN), Joe Finan (Saratoga National Historical Park), Jaime O'Neill (Saratoga County Planning Department), Kevin Novak (NYSDOT Region 1), Jason Purvis (CDTC), and Michael Welti (TCC)

Absent: Shelley Lang (CDTC)

Guests: None

1. Welcome and Agenda Review

Michael Welti, Project Manager from The Chazen Companies (TCC), reviewed the agenda for this meeting (attached).

2. Committee Business

The committee agreed that the meeting notes from the January 18, 2006 Committee Meeting were complete and that they should be made available for public review. They will be posted on the Stillwater website, and hardcopies will be available for public review at the Town and Village offices.

3. Review and discuss outcomes from Public Workshop 1

Mr. Welti distributed draft copies of the notes from the First Public Workshop, which was held on January 26th at the Stillwater Community Center, to the committee. He noted that the primary purpose of this Study Advisory Committee Meeting was to review and discuss what the committee heard from the public last week. As local residents and leaders, the committee must help provide needed background and perspective about the comments received.

Mr. Welti started by reviewing the responses received from the public during the "issues identification" component of the workshop. He asked for feedback from the committee regarding these responses.

Mayor Martin said that he did not hear much that was new. Many of the public comments were old complaints, and he would have liked to hear more new ideas about what should be done in the future.

Several members of the committee expressed pleasure with the strong turnout for the workshop, and noted with satisfaction that there were some new faces in the audience.

Supervisor Connors noted that the community has not been through processes like these (the Comprehensive Plan and the Route 4 Corridor Study) before. These types of workshops are a new experience for most residents.

Mr. Welti continued by reviewing the results from the Image Preference Exercise and then the Planning Group activity. Responses from the four planning groups had been combined and summarized by Chazen on a single 11"x17" orthophoto. As he reviewed the ideas displayed on

the orthophoto, the committee had numerous comments. The main topics discussed are described below:

- Village traffic – residents believe that there is a need for a traffic light on Route 4 in the Village – particularly at its intersection with Lake Street. The committee discussed possible solutions to this long-standing concern. TCC will look at this intersection more closely to determine if there is a “warrant” for a signal at this location. Even if it does not meet any of the federal engineering thresholds for a traffic signal, there may be other approaches that TCC can recommend for this location.
- Pavement condition in the Village – it was noted that despite being resurfaced a few years ago, Route 4 in the Village (from southern Village boundary to Montgomery Place) is in terrible condition.
- Trucks in the Village – It was noted that the concern about trucks has been a reoccurring issue in the Village for many years. Anecdotally, it appears that there were far fewer trucks passing through the Village years ago when the Northway opened, but the number seems now to increase every year (as traffic on the Northway has increased). A question was raised about whether tandem trucks are permitted to travel on Route 4 – they have been traveling through the Village recently. Kevin Novak (NYSDOT) agreed to find out whether Route 4 is classified for use by tandem trucks.
- Sidewalks in the Village – in addition to the strong desire expressed by residents for expanding the Village sidewalk system north to the school, the committee discussed the design of sidewalks in the Village. Sidewalks installed along Route 4 a few years ago were designed improperly – they dip at each driveway rather than maintaining a level walkway. Though this is not technically wrong, it was agreed that this is much less pleasant for pedestrians and should be avoided in the future.
- Old Champlain Canal ROW – the committee discussed the status of the various parcels (public and privately owned) that today comprise the Old Champlain Canal ROW. The recent history related to some of the sections of this ROW, in particular sections that are/were owned by Saratoga County, was the subject of much of this discussion. It was agreed that the fragmented and confusing ownership situation is a significant obstacle to the future use of the ROW as a multi-use trail. Still the goal of creating a link between the Village and the National Park using this ROW was considered worthy of continued effort.
- Intersection of Routes 4 and 32 – Several residents at the public workshop and members of this committee believe that initial work on an intersection improvement project (archeological investigation) was begun this past summer. Mr. Novak will check again to determine whether there is a NYSDOT project planned for this intersection.
- Hudson River access – in addition to the ideas for river access generated at the workshop, committee members noted that the state owns a strip of land along the river, immediately east of the school. This land forms a natural sandy beach and committee members recalled it being informally used for swimming in years past. Perhaps there is an opportunity to create a beach there in the future.

5. Next Steps

The next SAC Meeting was scheduled for:

Wednesday, April 5 at 4:30 PM
Stillwater Town Hall

TCC will mail a preliminary draft report to the committee on or about March 22nd. This will give committee members about 2 weeks to review the draft in preparation for the meeting.

6. Public Comment

Nobody from the public attended this meeting.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Welti, AICP
Project Manager
The Chazen Companies

**Stillwater U.S. Route 4 Corridor Plan
Study Advisory Committee (SAC)**

**Meeting 3
Wednesday, February 1, 2006
4:30 PM**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Agenda Review

2. Committee Business

Meeting notes from SAC Meeting #2 on January 18, 2006

3. Review and discuss outcomes from Public Workshop 1

4. Next Steps

Schedule next Study Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting

5. Public Comment

6. Adjournment

Stillwater U.S. Route 4 Corridor Plan

Proposed Timeline

Stillwater U.S. Route 4 Corridor Plan										
TASKS / Month		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Task 1	Project Coordination	I		⊙	⊙		⊙		⊙	
Task 2	Existing Conditions	████████								
Task 3	Public Workshop 1			★						
Task 4	Architectural and Design Guidelines				████████████████					
Task 5	Transportation Recommendations				████████████████					
Task 6	Implementation and Funding					██████				
Task 7	Public Workshop 2							★		
Task 8	Final "Route 4 Corridor Plan"								████████████	

- I = Project Initiation Meeting with the Study Advisory Committee (SAC)
- ⊙ = Additional Meetings with the SAC
- ★ = Public Workshops