
Notes of 3/15/18 MMC Check-in Mtg- Detour issues; Schedule & Communication Plan

1 message

Jean Fraser <jf@portlandmaine.gov> Mon, Mar 19, 2018 at 12:10 PM
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Hello all

Key points from the **3/15/18** Site Plan Review meeting with MMC:

(Please let me know if I have missed anything important; note that these are intended as an "aid de memoir" and not as formal minutes, though will be in the PB reports so they are aware of the scale and nature of the discussions)

CONGRESS STREET CLOSURE - Physical upgrades needed

- **WEYMOUTH STREET** with reference to Keith Grays' Memo (attached)
 - Turners had scheduled to do some repairs before detour started, and then do complete overlay after the detour
 - KG's Memo was questioned; KG explained his request for milling off the surface, doing localized repairs and the resurfacing; he indicated that "repairs-only" would not work as needs too much re surface (base OK)
 - Turners Project Manager felt that milling off central surface would not stand up to the detour and they would need to do more and close down Weymouth for a week in late April prior to detour
 - KG noted that if they do this then it may trigger need for ADA compliance
 - KG confirmed that his assessment was attempting to keep the work and cost to a minimum, and that he expected his approach would not need any substantial further work to be necessary after the detour (though need to check afterwards to see if any repairs needed)
 - DG asked if MMC has to bring it all up to ADA standards and answer was this depends on what they disturb

- ADA issues also relate to/depend on where the detour is intensifying pedestrian/vehicular conflicts (eg TE felt additional pedestrian accommodations needed at Congress/Weymouth and Weymouth/Park - see below)
 - Later in the meeting KG noted that the City was completing the paving of the travel lane and sidewalks along State Street - to involve partial lane closure being done latter part of April- suggested that maybe the contractor doing this could do the work in Weymouth since already geared up - KG will share the State Street schedule and follow up regarding coordination of these
 - Police noted this a concern - Park Ave westbound a potential bottleneck as no alternative route
- **RADII FOREST TO BOYNTON RIGHT TURN**
 - Regarding the turning radius at Boynton/Forest, KG and TE both were concerned and requested seeing turning template of a fire truck making the right turn into Boynton from Forest
 - UPDATE: 3/16 RD of G-P had done the autoturn and MMC has concluded they need to modify that radii and it will be part of the updated MOT that will be in the PB Packet
- **PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATIONS AT CONGRESS/WEYMOUTH AND WEYMOUTH/PARK**
 - At the meeting TE and others expressed concern that the detour traffic would make it difficult/unsafe for pedestrians trying to cross at each end of Weymouth Street
 - UPDATE 3/16: Sebago has prepared details for temporary crosswalks and these will be in the MOT
- **METRO** Stop inbound on Park just before Weymouth Street
 - Metro had requested that the stop be relocated about 40 feet west and have a concrete slab created between the curb and sidewalk for bus passengers
 - Note that parking spaces would need to be removed but DPW have authority to close 2 parking spaces
 - Question as to whether METRO would want the stop and pad to remain permanently - if not, is it worth pouring the pad? BH to check with METRO
- **SIGNAL AT WEYMOUTH/PARK**
 - KG requested that this be left in place for a couple of weeks *after* the detour finishes so that the City can do counts at this location
- **FOREST/CONGRESS** lane detail
 - Short section of outbound lane to be left open in front of MOB for access for ambulances etc
 - Police concerned re night issues here
- **SIGNAGE**
 - Signage Plan in MOT needs some updating - but is detailed enough for now

- City staff will review the spray-painted sign locations
- Variable message signs being discussed with MDOT
- **COORDINATION WITH MDOT** (see last item in the attachment)
 - All has been agreed; MMC will provide the variable message boards

CONGRESS STREET CLOSURE - COORDINATION RE SEADOGS GAMES

- There are about 22 Seadogs Home games during the period of the closure
- Seadogs hire police for crossing in front of stadium
- Public comment at PB had highlighted large number of peds throughout the area before/after a game, including at Boynton (PM weekday particularly problematic)
- SO requested specific *Seadogs Management Plan* that thinks through and addresses the pedestrian issues
- JS suggested flaggers at key points would help
- AG of MMC confirmed he would set up a meeting with Seadogs and invite City reps
- UPDATE: Al arranged mtg for 3/16 but it was very brief due to Seadogs misunderstanding- some points:
 - Getting message out: Seadogs can get info out to ticketbuyers about access and parking changes
 - Peds from MOB garage to stadium: JP does not think it will be a problem; DG suggested Turners can monitor and include that monitoring in the "script" for the first weeks; TE considered that they should take some action ahead of the first game based on the monitoring of the detour over the first week (JP noted that Opening Day had biggest crowds in April then lower until weather is warmer)
 - Traffic congestion in area: Seadogs have policeman at Park ped crossing but concern that more control needed. DG said Turners could have flaggers available to help; need to clarify to what extent flaggers can direct traffic here.

CONGRESS STREET CLOSURE SCHEDULE (see attached draft)

- Closure starts May 7 Monday and trucks with crane pieces start arriving immediately
- AG ran through the schedule - last day is June 28th
- Turners doing a more detailed schedule- showed it to group; its under development and will be circulated week of 3/19 along with Communication Tree
- Crescent needs to be 2-way in advance so can bring in construction fencing etc (discussed signage to ensure no parking there)
- Will have a separate meeting with Police regarding a police detail at each end of the detour
- CMP removing /relocating lines in early May
- Police concerned schedule does not build in a buffer, with completion just before July 4th weekend - DG explained that schedule includes buffer because of conservative estimates as to beams per day etc.
- This schedule OK for PB Report

PRESENTATION FOR COUNCILORS, PUBLIC AND PLANNING BOARD (discussion of attached draft)

- TE suggested:
 - Need to address public comments at PB meeting re using State Street - speak more to the need for detours to get back to original route as soon as possible (add into chart)
 - Show whats happening to peds- this also raised at PB
 - Explain whats happening re METRO
 - Address PB concerns re Seadogs games
- Further discussion at 3/16 Seadogs meeting: TE asked if they were going to address the question that arose at the PB workshop about how much the volumes on Park will change- MMC has a graphic re volumes that will go into the MOT and the presentation will refer.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (see attached draft)

- Update regarding discussions with neighbors re loss of parking during detour- MMC have had meeting with Crescent residents and will have meeting with Boynton residents next week
- MMC will be circulating flyers to all neighbors in affected area (flyer includes where residents can park during detour and how to get a tag to use those parking areas)
- Matt Wickenheiser (Senior Communications Manager, MMC) ran through the Communication Plan and is liaising with Jessica Grondin of the City

SCHEDULE of MEETINGS:

- **22 MARCH THURS MTG- MAY NOT BE HELD- WILL CONFIRM**
- **27 MARCH:** Planning Board anticipated to give (conditional) Site Plan approval including re CMP for East Tower and Visitors Garage - final comments requested from reviewers by 3/21
- **Thursdays 9AM:** Please keep the Thursday 9am slot available for ongoing meetings with MMC on the Congress Street closure (as needed) and the St Johns Garage Site Plan. Let Jean or Nell know if you have an item that you would like on the agenda.

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2 attachments

 **MMC CMP-MOT- Comm Plan Update for 3.15.18 mtg.pdf**
1747K

 **Weymouth Street Pavement Memo-DPW.doc**
32K

