
Fwd: MMC CMP and detours- to PB Workshop on 2/27

1 message

Jean Fraser <jf@portlandmaine.gov>
To: "Fraser, Jean" <jf@portlandmaine.gov>

Fri, Feb 23, 2018 at 11:32 AM

From: **James Sweatt** <jjs@portlandmaine.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 23, 2018 at 9:50 AM
Subject: Re: MMC CMP and detours- to PB Workshop on 2/27
To: Jean Fraser <jf@portlandmaine.gov>
Cc: "O'Brien, Stuart" <sgo@portlandmaine.gov>, "Barhydt, Barbara" <bab@portlandmaine.gov>

Hello Jean,

The Police Department have taken great effort to evaluate the proposed construction at Maine Medical Center to include the closure of Congress St. The material presented by several city departments, and the MMC staff have determined the safest way to build the parking garage further is to close Congress St. We are obviously concerned with the impact to the neighborhood and greater Portland community.

We have read, and was present during Kleinfelder's presentation of the engineering data and crane placement recommendations. It appears it will be necessary to close Congress St for the 8 week period that Turner construction has projected. It will be imperative that Turner keep to this schedule and we would recommend incentives to open Congress St sooner and substantive penalties for delays beyond 8 weeks. It will be crucial that the closure of Congress Street not extend past June 29th to avoid conflict with the highest summer traffic flow.

We have presented recommendations and participated in the construction detour plan. With the available details and traffic projections, the plan presented at the 2/15/18 meeting appears to be the best option during the road closure and construction of the East Tower and garage over-build. Having said that, we believe the detour has to be monitored throughout the closure to insure it meets the needs of the area. Changes may be necessary after traffic patterns develop around the detour.

It is our experience that traffic changes are unpredictable even with thorough planning. We believe Maine Medical Center must educate it's employees and the many visitors on the best ways to access the hospital to reduce confusion with motorists. MMC must stay engaged with the community and be thoughtful to continue to address the community needs as they change through the construction project. MMC must communicate to the community on numerous platforms to keep the community informed. MMC must have

a robust staff dedicated to work with day to day complaints this extensive project will produce. Project staff must maintain direct communication with city departments throughout the project using prearranged communication channels.

Turner construction must also manage the delivery of concrete casts to Congress St and steel to East Tower in a manner to avoid large vehicles with heavy loads moving during morning commuter hours (0700-1000) and afternoon hours (1500-1800). We continue to recommend the delivery and staging of large vehicles before and after normal commuting hours to reduce the impact on traffic and pedestrians.

A parking plan for construction workers has been developed and Turner has expressed a commitment to hold those workers and contractors accountable. We believe this needs to be followed through on to minimize some of the negative impacts on the neighborhood.

There are still many details that have to be resolved. We look forward to further meetings with city staff and MMC partners to formalize the details as we proceed through this process. MMC and their partners seem to be willing to accept suggestions that are being presented. We would suspect a written document would memorialize the traffic expectations for the MMC project.

Overall the Police Department would prefer a construction options that did not involve the closure of Congress Street, however the proposed plan seems to be the best option short of that.

Thank you.