

**Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2003**

Attending: Don Jones, Lois Kwantz, Marguerite Rafter, Sean Rafter

Guest: Bill Sutter

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM. The first order of business was to review the minutes from Nov. 17, 2003. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes: 4-0 in favor.

Don reported on the following points of interest and information:

*The town has received a letter re: Gateway 1. It is "on hold" due to funding problems at the federal level; the TEA (transportation efficiency act) otherwise referred to as the federal highway bill has not yet been passed by Congress.

*Don had done as was requested by the TC at the last meeting and had contacted Bob Faunce regarding our concerns about access management onto major business routes as new development begins, particularly on Rtes. 1 & 27. Although Bob is not under contract with the Wiscasset planning board as an advisor, he is under contract with the state to educate local leaders of towns re: the state's guidelines about access management. Don feels that this accomplishes the goal of making Wiscasset leadership aware that they must follow these guidelines.

*There is still no official word from MDOT re: the most recently proposed "northern" route for a bypass. Andrew Gilmore is not expecting a positive response but the commissioner is going to send a letter as soon as they finish updating/revising the matrix for the existing proposed routes.

*The comprehensive plan committee seems to be at a standstill. There are not enough people to do the work; they have been hard hit by resignations and there is currently no chair person.

The next item on the agenda concerned by-pass interchanges. The selectmen have requested a recommendation from the TC about interchanges on Routes 218 and 27. Don presented a sheet of information from Ed Hanscom of MDOT re: traffic amounts on Rtes. 1, 27 & 218 as well as points of information, pro/con, for interchanges on Rte. 27 **and** Rte. 218 which currently has no interchange planned by MDOT. After much discussion on the part of the committee plus Bill Sutter who was there to speak to his point of view about interchanges, the committee felt that there were more reasons to have full interchanges allowing flow of traffic both on to and off of a by-pass at both Rte. 27 and Rte. 218. The basic feeling of the committee was that if the purpose of the by-pass was to keep through traffic out of the village, then access to the by-pass needed to be available at the points where the by-pass crossed a major roadway. Other benefits involved removing gravel trucks from Sheepscot Village, lessening the use of backroads for busy and often speeding commuter traffic, as well as preventing possible additional property taking and dislocation in the future which would most likely happen as rural areas become developed, forcing rebuilding of and/or instituting a new interchange (on Rte. 218). The committee believes that there are simplified designs for interchanges that would minimize additional land taking around the Rte 1 by-pass overpasses. The committee re-affirmed its commitment to a limited access by-pass with no businesses having direct access on to the by-pass other than via the interchanges. Sean Rafter moved that the transportation committee recommend full access from Rtes. 27 & 218, both on and off the by-pass. Marguerite seconded and the committee voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

In other business, there was a brief discussion about the concept of a parkway vs. a throughway. Bill Sutter stated that he believes that any by-pass needs to be built to national standards to allow 55 mph traffic. Larry Cilley will be passing on to the TC for review after the first of the year, the BTIP (Biennial Transportation Improvement Plan) which is a list of transportation projects proposed by MDOT for funding during the next biennium. The town also has an opportunity to comment on BTIP items. In addition, Don presented the proposal for the Prospect/Hancock Bridge for us to have a look at, and he mentioned that Gateway 1 project directors were looking at the possibility of applying for 501c(3) status in order to fund Gateway 1.

After agreeing to meet on Monday, Jan 19, 2004 (same time, same place), we adjourned at 8:22 PM, wishing a Merry Christmas to all!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Kwantz, Secretary