



U.S. HIGHWAY 169

PRELIMINARY HIGHWAY AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN

PAC MEETING NOTES

Meeting Number 2
Feb. 9, 2006
1:00 to 3:00 PM

Attendees: See attached sign-in sheet

Introductions

Summary of action items:

- Meetings minutes called approved and will be posted on website as is.
- BMI collected names for people to be considered for invitation to workshops and will finalize list and mail invitation letter and agenda to invitees by Friday February 17th.

Item #1 – Review of Minutes

Discussion:

- No changes to minutes for PAC Meeting 1 held on January 12th, 2006.

Action:

- Meetings minutes called approved and will be posted on website as is.

Item #2 – State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)/ Mn/DOT Cultural Resource Unit (CRU) Background and Viewpoint

Discussion:

- Mn/DOT Cultural Resource Unit (CRU)
 - CRU is authorized by FHWA to be “review authority” with Section 106.
 - Late 1870’s thru 1920’s is “period of significance”.
 - The buildings and street width are historic features in the Historic Preservation District.

- Mn/DOT will make a determination based on federal requirements. The project must follow the rehabilitation standard (one of the following options)
 - Historic approach, or
 - Modern design that doesn't distract from street appearance
- "Historic" is anything that was actually built, does not include plans that were not followed through.
- Can do a modern design that's consistent/compatible with past; or can do an alternative that is more historic look. Not sure if median is consistent with history.
- Give us reason for changes (ex: traffic flow, pedestrian needs) suggested.
- Preferred to keep "open feel".
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
 - Bring back treatments from historic period to restore integrity
 - Recognize St. Peter specific historic items, not just anything deemed "historic"
 - No feeling yet of appropriateness of median.
 - There are two approaches to meeting the rehabilitation standard
 - Use historic treatments
 - Use good compatible design that may be more modern, but does not take away from historical integrity. Example: The Historic St. Croix lift bridge is being converted to a pedestrian bridge. The materials added are durable and have very clean lines, but don't take over (they blend in with existing treatments). They are "high" design, yet they are understated.
 - Make sure not to make the design (streetscape) so busy that it takes away from the historic character of the street and buildings.
 - SHPO would be willing to meet again once we have something to consider
- Comments by group
 - Our intent is to involve SHPO/CRU early and throughout
 - Need SHPO/CRU involvement for developing concepts.
 - Any pictures of tree lines down "median" would be helpful to consider new median.
 - What is the compatibility of the existing corridor with its historic context?
 - Can the project be an improvement on the present condition?
 - Problems identified in the corridor:
 - Pedestrian crossing (time to get across)
 - No sense of streetscape
 - Noise (trucks)
 - Speed (traffic)
 - Need something significant to get people to invest in the corridor
 - What about spot medians at pedestrian crossing locations?
 - Treatments outside historic district do not need to be historic, much more flexibility.
 - CRU has no opposition to medians at this time, but would like to see other alternatives since no solid data exists that shows medians during the historic period.
 - City would like medians in downtown area. This has a key process and the public/community expectations are focused on this. Expectation is that there would be different treatments for different areas
 - Would be nice to have historic district treated differently than the rest of the corridor, to emphasize the boundaries of the historic district.
 - There were a lot of empty store fronts in the downtown area in 1989, We have made a significant effort to improve this area and do restorations, but people find it difficult to invest. I don't think they will continue to invest unless there is a significant statement by this project.
 - All PAC members pledged to try and work together to identify improvements that would improve community, safety and fit the historic context of the area.

Item #3 – Alternative Generation Exercise

Discussion:

- SRF reviewed alternatives with PAC.
- Broke into two groups to discuss the following questions:
 - Pedestrian demand areas?
 - Signal location ideas?
 - Median locations
 - If given \$100, how would you spend it? (divided between the downtown district, the north and the south end)

- Main items discussed
 - View north and south segments different than the downtown area
 - Main crossing areas between Mulberry and Broadway
 - Raised median throughout
 - Trees in medians north and south of historic area
 - Group would like to see more restrictive access (longer medians)
 - Signals at Broadway and Jefferson consider shifting signal at either Grace or Mulberry.
 - Need to improve pedestrian crossings
 - Maintain pedestrian crossings even at closed median street locations.
 - Nassau heaviest pedestrian traffic.
 - Not a desire for tall, overwhelming trees.
 - Eliminate parking on north and south ends of project are okay.
 - Consider raised walls for medians in downtown (for plantings), Kasota Stone, etc.

Item #4 –Preparation for Work Session/Open House

Discussion:

- Workshops will be held at the St. Peter Community Center on March 9th between 10am and 5pm, timeslots not definite are this point.
- SRF presented a draft workshop invitation letter to invitees and workshop agenda to the group.
- Bolton and Menk collected names for people to be considered for invitation to workshops. Jon will finalize list and mail invitation letter and agenda to invitees by Friday February 17th.
- Date for Open House Scheduled for March 16th in the Senior Center at the St. Peter Community Center, 5-8pm.

Action:

- Bolton and Menk collected names for people to be considered for invitation to workshops. Jon will finalize list and mail invitation letter and agenda to invitees by Friday February 17th.

Item #5 – Analysis approach

- SRF provided a brief overview of the approach to analyzing safety and traffic circulation issues. Group was in agreement with approach.

Item #6 – Next PAC Meetings (held at the St. Peter Community Center):

- Thursday, April 13th, 2006, 1:00 to 3:00pm
- Thursday, May 11th, 2006, 1:00 to 3:00pm
- Thursday, June 8th, 2006, 1:00 to 3:00pm

**TH 169/St. Peter
Project Advisory Committee
Meeting SIGN-IN SHEET**

**February 9th, 2006 1:00- 3:00 PM
St. Peter's Community Center – Governor's Room**

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>CONTACT PHONE #</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bob Vogel (on behalf of Victoria Vogel)	City Council	507-931-3818
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Bjelland	St. Peter Planning & Zoning	W 507-933-6283 H 507-931-0122
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Leonard	St. Peter Heritage Preservation Committee	507-934-2160
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Dobie	Chamber of Commerce	W 507-931-4340 H 507-931-6995
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul Tanis	St. Peter Development Corp.	507-934-3430
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ken Westphal	Gustavus Adolphus College	507-933-7499
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Mc Garvey	SRF Consulting Group, Inc.	763-475-0010
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dennis Gimmestad	SHPO	651-205-4205
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kristen Zschomler	Mn/DOT Cultural Resources	651-296-3243
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Larson	Mn/DOT Landscape Unit	651-284-3774
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Bigham	Mn/DOT D7 Planning	507-389-6888
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peter Harff	Mn/DOT	507-389-6877
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lew Giesking	City of Saint Peter	507-934-0670
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Russ Wille	City of Saint Peter	507-934-0661
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Wagner	Nicollet County	507-931-6800
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dave Montebello	SRF Consulting Group, Inc.	763-475-0010 612-269-4999 (cell)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jon Huseby	Bolton & Menk, Inc.	507-625-4171 507-380-4180 (cell)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Renae Cornelius	SRF Consulting Group, Inc.	763-475-0010
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rebecca Arndt	Mn/DOT D7	507-389-6883