



Village of Lancaster

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

5423 BROADWAY

LANCASTER, NEW YORK 14086

NY STATE DOT
COMBINED CORRIDOR/DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING
NOVEMBER 19, 1997

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:

Mr. James Keysa, Chairman
Mrs. Jean Brunea, Vice-Chairman
Mr. William Harnack
Dr. Paul Kendall
Mr. Michael Meyer
Mr. Joseph Giallanza
Mrs. Jeannette Pecqueur
Dr. Duane Redlinski
Mrs. Mary Harcrow, Secretary

After all the introductions, the DOT explained the two types of public hearings. This was to be a combined corridor/design public hearing. They explained that the plans are still preliminary. They made sure that everyone who attended filled out a registration card. They also wanted to make sure that everyone received the NYSDOT brochure describing the project. They had printed 350 copies of the brochure, however they ran out and not everyone in attendance received one. They also had copies of the "Property Acquisition Process" booklet for those property owners needing this assistance.

Mr. Tom Romano gave an overview of the project for the record. He reported that the DEIS was out and available for review on 9/9/97. Copies were on hand at the Office of Regional Director, public libraries, many politicians in the towns & villages, as well as upon request from the DOT. He went on to explain that all statements & comments could be given to the stenographer who was in the cafeteria from 4-10 p.m., could be written down and submitted in the box in the cafeteria, could be written and mailed to the DOT or could be presented orally at the public hearing. All these comments would become part of the official record and will receive careful consideration before a final design plan is selected. All comments must be received by 12/12/97. Then they will prepare a final design plan within 6-7 months to submit to the Federal Highway Administration. This would then be published in the newspaper. In at least 30 days, a record of decision would be announced. The project would be started in early 2000 and the competition date is targeted for Fall 2001.

Chris George explained the preliminary plans with respect to the ROW limitations. He explained that an appraisal is ordered to determine a fair market value of the property. Then the individual property owner is contacted and sent a ROW map showing that it is necessary for the State to acquire this property. After a decision is made, a "one step" firm offer of compensation is made. A Right-of-Way Agent is available to assist anyone with relocation services.

The next part of the hearing was the public response part. Each person was given 4 minutes since 60 people registered to speak. They were taken in the order that each person registered. First to speak was Dave Brody who represented the FOB and the Lancaster Historic Committee. He gave an overview of what these 2 groups have requested the DOT do with regards to the widening of Broadway. They are summarized as follows:

- 1) Replace the 2 bridges.
- 2) Alternatives 2 & 3 will have a detrimental impact on the Village neighborhood atmosphere in Lancaster & Depew.
- 3) No more than 4 lanes in Depew and no more than 3 lanes in Lancaster, except for D & L Plaza area.
- 4) DOT should provide economic assistance to businesses losing parking spaces due to ROW.
- 5) Find a way for the traffic to access Litchfield & Bloomfield.
- 6) Respect the Historic District in Village of Lancaster so that it is not ruined by the widening.
- 7) We feel the DOT needs to apply for a permit and not rely on Nationwide #3 for bridge crossing.
- 8) We need to further evaluate the stormwater prevention plan, including updating the water quality w/o additional expenses.
- 9) We need to further evaluate the sewer/utility relocation plans.
- 10) Tree re-planting should start immediately.
- 11) Accommodate the parking needs of M & T Bank, so that their business is not affected.

Then the consultants who were hired by the FOB and LHD spoke. They included Howard Schultz, Dave Taylor, Bill Arlow and Jim Keysa (for Traci Clever) reported on some specific design concerns the group has, as well as some suggestions for improving this project. After the consultants, other members of the FOB and LHD expressed their individual concerns regarding the widening of Broadway. They were: Judy Michaels, Jim Keysa, Bill Harnack, Jeannette Pecqueur, Paul Kendall, Joseph Giallanza (Bill Arlow read his statement), Mike Meyer (Dave Brody expressed his concerns), Henry Wick (Elaine) and Duane Redlinski.