

**CONWAY BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MINUTES OF GOVERNOR'S ROUNDTABLE**  
**DISCUSSION OF CONWAY TRAFFIC**

NOVEMBER 21, 2005

The Conway Board of Selectmen Governor's Roundtable Discussion of Conway Traffic convened at 2:09 p.m. on November 21, 2005 in the meeting room at The Echo Group, 15 Washington Street, Conway Village, with the following present: Selectmen, Larry Martin, Karen Umberger, David Weathers, Gary Webster, and Mark Hounsell; Town Manager, Earl W. Sires; New Hampshire Governor, John Lynch; Executive Councilor, Raymond Burton; NHDOT Commissioner, Carol Murray; State Senator, John Gallus (Mr. Gallus was also representing Senator Kenney who could not attend the meeting due to the fact that he is currently serving in the armed services in Iraq); State Representative, Gene Chandler; State Representative, Carolyn Brown; State Representative, Howard Dickinson; State Representative, Thomas Buco; Conway Citizen, Ralph Wiggin; Madison Citizen, George Epstein; Conway Police Chief, Edward Wagner; Madison Selectman, John Arruda; Albany Citizen, Frank Wolfe; Albany Selectman, Dorothy Solomon; Conway citizen and Chair of the Conway Citizens Design Review Committee, Jac Cuddy, and Recording Secretary, Karen Hallowell. There were also about twenty members of the public present in the audience.

Selectman, Mark Hounsell, moderated the meeting. Mr. Hounsell welcomed everyone to the meeting and made introductions of everyone seated at the table.

Governor Lynch thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked George Epstein for the location to hold the meeting. Governor Lynch explained he is here for the purpose of listening to traffic concerns, bypass issues, etc. Governor Lynch explained he has been coming to Conway for many years and understands the traffic challenges here in Conway and wants to listen and see if there is anything he can do to help.

Town Manager, Earl Sires, highlighted the Board of Selectmen concerns and also gave a brief overview of Phase 5B, and the Southern Portion of the Bypass project (Phase 6).

Jac Cuddy, Chair of the Conway Citizens Design Review Committee, spoke about the Scenic Vista project, building and reconstruction, and the concerns raised by the citizens that had brought about a change to the design of the project. Mr. Cuddy explained the original design was not something the community would accept and the NHDOT worked with the community to redesign the visitor center. Mr. Cuddy questioned where NHDOT is on this project and will it be completed in 2006. NHDOT Commissioner, Carol Murray, explained the project has been re-bid and they think the project can now be done. Ms. Murray agreed that the new design is much better than the one originally planned for the Vista project. Ms. Murray further advised that this will be brought to the Governor's Council for approval. Ms. Murray stated they are looking forward to getting this project underway.

Executive Councilor, Raymond Burton, next gave a brief overview of the history of the Bypass. Councilor Burton advised that all permits for the Bypass are now in place with the exception of Madison and he will not be part of asking for a change to any part of the permits that are in place. Councilor Burton stated he thinks they could compress

and move some plans forward at this point. Representative Burton spoke about the 10-Year Highway Plan study he will be presenting to the Governor and Council in the near future and urged the Governor to look over the study and approve same. Representative Dickinson added that he hoped that the study could be expedited as soon as possible.

The Governor questioned what the issues of concern are for everyone. There was a general discussion and a major concern voiced was that a traffic study will take two years to begin. There was also a question of whether a traffic study was even necessary to start building the southern segment of the bypass as many feel it is obvious that the road is needed. There was also some discussion regarding doing a compressed study as well.

There was next discussion regarding the southern terminus portion of the bypass project. Carol Murray advised the project is fully permitted and to keep the project moving forward we have to keep it as it is at this point. Ms. Murray further advised there is a portion in the project in Albany/Madison area that if the southern terminus design doesn't work, we could revisit that portion at a later date, and so there is a way to relook at this portion and still keep this project on track. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the southern terminus of the bypass and the different ideas and reasons for wanting to change same. The State Representatives impressed upon the table that the goal here is to get united or they don't see how this project would work from a legislative and funding point. Representative Chandler stated that it is past the time to be considering any changes to the project and we need to move forward.

After further lengthy discussion the Governor advised that he would help with whatever the community supports and where there is a broad consensus. Governor Lynch advised that this community needs to agree on what we want to see happen and then, whatever we decide, he will help with that decision in as quick a time as he can. If there is a quick way he will try and he will go to bat for us but that we need a consensus first.

Mr. Webster pointed out that the Town of Conway had sent letters in the past stating that we did not want to jeopardize the funding or the phasing of the project and that we need to get the road built. Mr. Webster stated that we want to see changes but not at the risk of the project and the issue with the southern terminus was that we wanted to see a better connector, however, not at the risk of the project.

Mr. Epstein questioned if the study will be compressed or not done at all at this point. The Governor advised that to do a study that has no value makes no sense and he will work with Carol Murray to see if there is a way to not do the study at this point.

Mr. Hounsell thanked the Governor for attending the meeting and also thanked everyone at the table for participating in the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen J. Hallowell  
Executive Secretary