



Christopher C. Branch, P.E.
Director of Public Works

Dear Public Meeting Attendee
(1/16/18 Brighton/Deering/Falmouth Roundabout Project)

Thank you for attending the January 16, 2018 City of Portland Department of Public Works Public Meeting for the Brighton Avenue, Deering Avenue Falmouth Street Roundabout Project.

SORRY, I know it has been awhile since the meeting and we should have communicated with you sooner regarding the follow up from the meeting to at least acknowledge that we heard you and are taking measures to address your comments.

Since that evening we have been reviewing the meeting transcript, staff notes and written comments/ questions from the meeting.

The following is an attempt to capture all your questions, comments, and concerns so that we can appropriately address them.

1. Is this Roundabout needed? The present intersection works fine.
2. Are Roundabouts safe for pedestrians, bicyclist, students, the neighborhood, and the different types of vehicles that use the intersection?
3. Where is the data to prove that the City/ Maine Department of Transportation, (MaineDOT) conclusions of a Roundabout is the best solution for this intersection and that a Roundabout is safer than the present intersection (or improved version of the same intersection)?
4. How is the City going to educate the public about the need for a Roundabout, the reasons a Roundabout is safer and the appropriate usage of the Roundabout?
5. Can there be some sort of Public Art at the Roundabout?

We have been working with Ransom Consulting, Inc. (and their sub contractor MJT Engineering), the Maine DOT, The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and City of Portland staff to address the series of questions comments and concerns brought up that evening.

It should be noted since 2012 the public process for this project has been going on. There have been several public meetings and City Council votes relating to this Roundabout as well as media coverage.

If you are someone who over the last 6 years has NOT been involved or followed this project and its studies which lead to the City Council's decision to build a Roundabout this latest meeting may have appeared to be jumping the gun.

For better or worse this prolonged process is the reality of implementing large federally funded projects such as this.



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That all stated, City Staff can fully appreciate why there were the questions and or confusion by some people at the meeting. We hope those of you who were able to stay for the whole meeting had many of your questions concerns addressed or you felt that we noted them.

I again apologize for the slow response but the following are the next step to provide information to continue the educational process that we feel needs to happen which we feel as we progress should help to alleviate your concerns.

Attached to this EMail are 4 different components:

1. The Executive Summary of the 2013 Brighton Ave./Deering Ave./Falmouth Street Intersection Study by VHB Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. that lead to the decision to build a Roundabout, approved as a Transportation Master Plan by the City Council.
2. An Engineering Peer Review Memo titled "Brighton-Deering-Falmouth Crash History and a Roundabout Safety". This is a summary of Maine DOT Crash Summary Reports which we can make available. The Memo is a summary of the Crash Summary Reports that MaineDOT creates every 3 years and the reports clearly states that this intersection is a High Crash Location (HCL), and thus needs to be improved to be safer.
3. FHWA Roundabout Brochures, the 6 different brochures provide information at a high level about certain roundabouts, answering questions and/or providing contacts/websites where one can get more in depth information. The Brochures are effective tools to help see why FHWA time after time supports Roundabouts in these types of HCL intersections.
4. The Roundabout Public Education (Draft) Plan. The Public Education Plan outlines the action steps to share information with the various segments of the public that will use this intersection.

It should also be noted regarding the Public Art questions from the Public Meeting that the City of Portland's Public Arts Committee is independently taking up the prospect of public art at the Roundabout. Public Works will provide them with appropriate information.

What was very evident at the meeting is that there is an need to educate the public about Roundabouts.

To that end we have been determining the different types of users that will need to be educated, what other communities have done for other similar projects and from that a plan that will be used to to educate the public for both the construction of the roundabout and use of the roundabout once the project is complete.

This plan is already beginning to be implemented because we didn't want to put this off any longer but there is still time for public input before it is finalized.

Portland, Maine



Yes. Life's good here.

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We hope the attached info is helpful.

There is a web page on the City's Website in the Public Works section titled "Roundabout", all of this information can also be found there. We will continue to add information to this site.

If you have any comments or questions please feel free to reach out.

Thank You,
Conrad Welzel
Project Manager