

# Engineering Design Services for the Robert Moses Parkway, North Segment D003554

## MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date:	8-26-10	Time:	10:00 AM
Meeting Location:	NYPA Community Room		
Prepared By:	Christopher Gaul		

MEETING ATTENDEES			
NAME		ORGANIZATION	Phone No.
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Ronald Peters	(RP)	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP)	
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Paul Tronolone	(PT)	USA Niagara	716.284.2556
Chris Schoepflin	(CS)	USA Niagara	716.284.2556
Paul Dyster	(PD)	City of Niagara Falls (CNF)	716.286.4310



This meeting was the first meeting in a planned series of meetings to bring project area stakeholders together to discuss the initial project objectives and to gather information related to development of the Project Scoping Report. The meeting today included a group of stakeholders referred to as the MOU Group. This group includes the NYSDOT, NYSOPRHP USA Niagara, and the City of Niagara Falls. This group has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that includes statements defining the group's intent to advance the required planning and design phases to allow for the implementation of specific Niagara Falls area transportation initiatives related to both current City/State economic development strategies and enhancement of regional tourism assets.

### 1. Meeting Kickoff

- a. AG welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that we are seeking common ground on which to build a foundation for the development of project goals and objectives. He also asked that everyone be patient as some of the data and issues that will be discussed today have been previously discussed by some attendees at other meetings.
- b. A meeting agenda and sign in sheet were distributed (copies attached). The items below follow items on the agenda.

### 2. Key Steps in Scoping Phase

- a. TD explained that this project will be progressed following the standard NYSDOT project development process. A copy of the NYSDOT Project Development Process flow chart was used to show where this project is in the process. This project is in the scoping phase which is the first task of Design Phase 1. During scoping input from various stakeholders is requested and considered to aid in the development of the project needs and objectives. Activities in this phase include meetings with stakeholders, public information meetings and the development of alternative concepts that meet the project needs and objectives. The alternative concepts developed in this phase are very preliminary and will be studied in greater detail during the subsequent project development phases. It is important to note that the study and refinement of the feasible alternatives including the selection of a preferred alternative will not happen in this phase.

### 3. Project Study Area

- a. Aerial photographs of the project study area were presented and reviewed. A display showing the overall study area indicated the highway network being studied as part of the traffic study. This traffic study area is larger than the "project area" to account for the consideration of traffic traveling into and out of the project area. The highway network identified on the traffic study map was generally accepted by the attendees, however it was noted that Highland Avenue should be included in the traffic study.

- b. The project area was shown on three large scale aerial maps. The project area is generally linear in shape following the path of the existing parkway. It begins at Niagara Street in the City of Niagara Falls and extends to the Village of Lewiston ending just north of Ridge Road (NY RT 104). The project area extends westerly to the Niagara River and easterly a short distance into the commercial/residential areas directly adjacent to existing parkway. This easterly limit is generally defined by Fourth Street, Main Street and Lewiston Road. The project area boundary was identified on the maps and represented by a dashed orange line.

4. Stake Holder Meetings

- a. Today’s meeting was the first meeting with stakeholders since the official project beginning. Other meetings will be held with several groups of stakeholders during the next few weeks. The stakeholders include government/municipal groups, elected officials, environmental groups and community/commercial groups. The attendees were asked to forward suggestions and contact information for local groups that should be invited to an upcoming stakeholder meeting. PD suggested using the “stakeholder” list prepared during the Niagara River Greenway EIS process to gather names of potential stakeholders.
- b. The initial stakeholder meetings will allow the project team to gather relevant project data, hear the concerns and ideas from the stakeholders, discuss project objectives, and obtain information regarding any parallel planning studies. The goal is to identify common elements for inclusion in the study and identify areas or issues that will require additional discussion with stakeholders.

5. Project Milestone Dates

- a. TD reviewed the proposed schedule for completion of the Draft Scoping report (DSR). Project tasks should be completed as follows:
  - *September 2010* Stakeholder meetings
  - *October 2010* Document development for public meeting
  - *Last week in October 2010* 1<sup>st</sup> Public Information Meeting
  - *November 2010 to January 2011* Concept development
  - *February 2011* Draft DSR
  - *March 2011* Stakeholder Meetings
  - *End of March 2011* 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House
  - *April 2011* Refine alt. concepts / incorporate comments
  - *May 2011* Final DSR

## 6. Initial Project Objectives

- a. TD presented a list of initial project objectives for review and discussion (see agenda). During the meeting many objective revisions were suggested and discussed by the attendees. The group considered the suggested changes and agreed on revised wording for each of the project objectives. The revised project objectives are attached. One change that should be noted, the project area shall be referred to as the **Niagara River Gorge Corridor**.

## 7. Other Issues Discussed

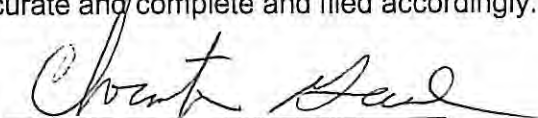
- a. *The following questions were raised by the CNF regarding the traffic study:*
  - *Does NY 104 satisfy the transportation need?*
  - *What is the corridor traffic use (Peak Hour, AADT, Vehicle Classifications)?**These questions will be answered once the traffic study is completed.*
- b. PT suggested Parsons check with the GBNRTC regarding the development of a traffic model for the Robert Moses Parkway. PT recalled that GBNRTC had received funding to complete the traffic study in Niagara Falls. Parsons traffic modeling would duplicate the work possibly done by GBNRTC. TD will check with the GBNRTC to determine if they have completed any detailed traffic modeling for the parkway.
- c. PD questioned the letter he received for a NYSDOT project including reconstruction of Robert Moses Parkway (north) at the southerly terminus. The CNF was unaware of this project. PD was surprised to see this project in light of the ongoing planning for the Niagara River Gorge corridor and the general dissatisfaction with the pilot project. PD also questioned the cost of the project and if funds would be better spent on the Niagara River Corridor project.

This project was originally part of the parkway pilot project but construction was delayed due to the lack of funding. NYSDOT agreed to schedule a meeting between the NYSDOT project manager (Craig Mozrall) and the City of Niagara Falls to address PD's questions and concerns.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 AM.

These Meeting Minutes represent the general nature, content and understandings of the items discussed and/or agreed upon during this meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcript. Any additions, corrections, or revisions by those attending/participating should be directed (in writing or via E-mail) to the undersigned within five (5) business days of receipt of these Meeting Minutes or they will be considered accurate and complete and filed accordingly.

Reported by:



## INITIAL PROJECT OBJECTIVES

08/26/10

Based on the results of the MOU Meeting held on August 26, 2010

- a. Remove the excess transportation infrastructure that currently exists within the Niagara Gorge Corridor.
- b. Provide appropriately scaled, direct, continuous and integrated improvements to the vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation linkages between the points of interest (scenic, natural, cultural and historic attractions) along the Niagara Gorge Corridor and within adjacent communities, neighborhoods and business districts.
- c. Create new and enhance existing connections with the adjacent community and the Niagara Gorge.
- d. Enhance opportunities for appropriately scaled uses within the Niagara Gorge Corridor by expanding the park experience up to and into the adjoining communities.
- e. Provide improved pedestrian access throughout the Niagara Gorge Corridor.
- f. Provide multi-modal recreational trails throughout the length of the corridor to points of interest and community destinations.
- g. Conserve, rehabilitate and protect the natural setting of the Niagara Gorge Corridor.
- h. Improve the visitor's and residence's experience both in the park and in the adjacent community.
- i. Support the Niagara River Greenway's vision by providing access to and connections between the important resources within the corridor, giving rise to economic opportunities for the region.

# AGENDA

## Robert Moses Parkway – North Segment

### MOU Group Meeting

August 26, 2010

1. Key steps included in the Project Scoping Phase
2. Project Study Area
  - a. Limits of street network to be studied
3. Initial Meetings Planned with Stakeholders and other Groups
  - a. Meeting with stakeholder groups (directly affected) including:
  - b. Meeting with other government/municipal groups including:
  - c. Meetings with elected federal, state, local officials.
  - d. Meetings with Local Cultural/Commercial Groups
  - e. Meetings with Environmental Groups
4. Purpose of the Initial Group Meetings
  - a. Obtain any relevant project data that the group may possess
  - b. Gain understanding/input regarding of the concerns/issues /perceived project objectives of the group
  - c. Obtain information on parallel planning efforts the group may have undertaken.
  - d. Obtain input on alternative concepts that may be proposed by the group
5. Work with stakeholders towards development of a common set of project objectives and work towards those compromises needed to move the project forward.
6. Anticipated project milestone dates
7. Initial Project Objectives
  - a. Remove the excess transportation infrastructure that currently exists within the Robert Moses Parkway corridor.
  - b. Provide appropriately scaled, direct, continuous and integrated improvements to the vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation linkages between the points of interest (scenic, natural, cultural and historic attractions) along the Niagara Gorge Corridor and within adjacent communities, neighborhoods and business districts.
  - c. Provide opportunities to enhance the connection between the City of Niagara Falls and the Niagara Gorge Corridor.
  - d. Enhance opportunities for appropriately scaled uses within the communities adjoining the Niagara Gorge Corridor by expanding the park experience up to or possibly into the adjoining communities.
  - e. Provide improved pedestrian access throughout the Niagara Gorge Corridor.
  - f. Provide multi-modal recreational trails to points of interest and community destinations throughout the length of the corridor.
  - g. Provide improvements and protection of the natural setting of the Niagara Gorge Corridor.
  - h. Improve the park visitor's experience both in the park and in the adjacent community.
  - i. Provide opportunities to establish the Niagara River Greenway's vision of providing access to and connections between the important resources within the corridor, while giving rise to economic opportunities for the region.

8/20/10 MOU  
MEETINGS &  
TITE WITOLS

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EMAIL

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# MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Robert Moses Parkway – North Segment

## MOU Group Meeting

DATE: August 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2010		LOCATION: NYPA Community Room	
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