

Will Dodge

From: Michael J. Buscher [mike@tjboyle.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2008 1:43 PM
To: Jerry Ostrander
Cc: Will Dodge
Subject: "East Avenue Loop" project - aesthetic review of design changes

Jerry,

I have reviewed the revised plan and profile, dated 9-10-2008, that includes revisions to structures within three locations described in the Visual Analysis Report including what I referred to as the (1) Route 2A / James Brown Drive Industrial Area (2) Winooski River Crossing #1, River Cove Road, and the Griswold Property, and (3) WVPD – Muddy Brook Area. I understand that the revisions include height and location adjustments to 17 poles and the revisions were necessary for two reasons, (1) to avoid Archeological / Natural Resource areas, and (2) to comply with ACOE Water Level Clearance Requirements.

Structure 3A on the K23 line, at the Route 2A / James Brown Drive Industrial area was moved 293' northward to avoid a wetland and the structure height was increase from 65' to 70'. Our original assessment of this area concluded there would not be adverse visual impacts created at this location due to project upgrades. These proposed changes will only shift a single structure further ahead existing mature vegetation. The structure height increase is minor. These changes will not alter our original conclusion.

At the Winooski river Crossing #1, 9 structure have been increase in height only to comply with federal clearance regulations over the waters of the Winooski River. The majority of the height increases are limited to 5'. Structure N-10 will increase 15', the largest increase in height. Due to the scenic value and readily available views of Project upgrades form River Road, we had determined that Project Upgrades were adverse, but could not be considered Undue. The increases in structure heights will not substantially alter post construction conditions at this location to the visual landscape and will not change our previous conclusion that adverse impacts will be created as a result of Project upgrades, but will not be undue.

The last area of changes is at the WVPD – Muddy Brook area. This area was also determined to have adverse impacts due to the recreation activity and scenic value of the area, but impacts would not be undue. Structures N-19, S-19, N-20, and S-20 were relocated between 5 to 65' to avoid archaeologically sensitive areas. The relocation resulted in a 5' structure height increase to six structures, including three of the relocated structures, S-18 and N-18 to the east, and S-21 to the west. These changes are minor and will not result in perceivable visual change from previous plans. These design changes will not alter our original conclusion at this location.

In whole, none of these proposed changes create a significant visual change that would alter our original conclusion that the East Avenue Loop project will result in adverse impacts to visual aesthetics, but those impacts will not be undue. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,
Mike

Michael J. Buscher, ASLA

landscape architect / partner

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