



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

August 24, 2016

The Honorable Jack Blalock, Mayor
City of Portsmouth Municipal Complex
1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

RE: Water Country, US Route 1, Portsmouth

Dear Mayor Blalock:

As requested in your June 13, 2016 letter, the NHDOT has reviewed a May 11, 2016 *Traffic Impact Assessment* prepared by TEC, Inc. that evaluated egress alternatives for the Water Country water park facility. The purpose of this traffic study was to quantify exiting traffic volumes and to identify which road networks this traffic uses to access I-95, the destination of nearly all Water Country patrons. The report also evaluated 3 egress options for the PM traffic condition that would redirect the exiting traffic to different roads through a combination of closing certain water park exits and the installation of new guide signs to I-95.

The report's traffic volume projections for current and future conditions (2026) were based on a combination of data from NHDOT traffic records and from a 2012 traffic study conducted for Southgate Plaza expansion. NHDOT determined the report's traffic volumes were reasonable and appropriate to use for this study. We note that all Water Country traffic currently exits to Constitution Avenue, with more than half (53%) turning left towards Route 1 and the remainder (47%) turning right towards Banfield Rd.

Regarding the egress alternatives analysis, in general, the options would redistribute traffic in some neighborhoods at the expense of others. While each alternative analyzed has beneficial dispersal of Water Country site traffic under the "PM" condition, the Department also has concerns for the "AM" traffic pattern, which was not analyzed. In any case, should an alternative that increases traffic at US Route 1 intersections be considered as the preferred approach the traffic impacts would need to be evaluated and appropriate mitigation determined.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on the TEC report. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our District Six Engineer, Brian Schutt at (603) 868-1133.

Sincerely,

Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

cc: Bill Cass, Assistant Commissioner
Peter Stamnas, Director of Project Development
William Lambert, Admin., Bureau of Traffic
Brian Schutt, District Six Engineer