

MESSAGE FROM THE BEDFORD SELECTMEN

DELIVERED BY CHAIR MARGOT FLEISCHMAN
DURING THE AUGUST 21, 2017 MEETING WITH MASSPORT

Before Massport begins their presentation, I want to take a moment to state on behalf of the Selectmen that obviously we are not satisfied with how this project was rolled out, and in particular the lack of communication from Massport. We certainly would have done things differently if there had been timely and accurate information, and I apologize to the residents who feel that we could have done better.

I do want to clarify a couple of points that have come up recently concerning whether the town took steps to modify Massport's plans:

As soon as it became apparent that all the truck traffic was going to pass through Bedford, Mr. Reed immediately reached out to ask why they couldn't go via Route 2A. I also requested an answer to this question from Massport, but it remained unanswered until the night of the forum we held at the end of July. Furthermore, the information we were eventually given about routes and numbers of trucks, information which we passed along to the local press, was not accurate, and new numbers were presented to us the same night that Massport representatives came to Bedford. That was not acceptable.

Some positive changes in truck routes were made, including routing away from the light at South and the Great Road in the center of town, where there would have been an impossible traffic snarl had the trucks tried to pass through that intersection. But certainly the routes should have been discussed long before the end of July.

In terms of notification, I stressed to Massport that they had to communicate the details of the project directly to Bedford residents. There was no mention of community impacts or truck routes included in the very generic press release that they issued, and as far as I understand there was no plan for any community notification, beyond this press release and the information on their website, before we requested it.

It is obviously within Massport's authority to reconstruct their runway, and to use public roadways for transportation. The bigger point is that when their plans were created and Bedford was the only Hanscom town affected, a conversation should have begun immediately to figure out how best to handle the impacts and prepare the town. Unfortunately, this did not happen.

It is my expectation that should any future project at Hanscom create these sorts of impacts in Bedford, the Selectmen will be notified directly with detailed, accurate and timely information so that a repeat of this situation can be avoided, and I anticipate that the Selectmen will be sending a formal letter to Massport going on record with our concerns so that any future projects will be handled more appropriately.