

**From:** [Michael Behrendt](#)  
**To:** [Tracey Culter](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Dover Road #3 - traffic study WEBSITE  
**Date:** Monday, December 16, 2024 10:51:00 AM

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Tracey,

Please post to the website. Planning Board – current – 3 Dover Road.  
“Email with NHDOT about traffic study – December 16, 2024”. Thanks.

## Michael Behrendt

Durham Town Planner  
8 Newmarket Road  
Durham, NH 03824  
(603) 868-8064

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**From:** Appleton, Roger <Roger.L.Appleton@dot.nh.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2024 8:59 AM  
**To:** Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>; Crouch, Peter <Peter.D.Crouch@dot.nh.gov>  
**Cc:** Scott Mitchell <scott@tropicstardevelopment.com>; Jim Mitchell (jmitchellsmre@gmail.com) <jmitchellsmre@gmail.com>; Matt Perry <mperry@theengineeringcorp.com>; Richard Reine <rreine@ci.durham.nh.us>; Rene Kelley <rkelley@ci.durham.nh.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Dover Road #3 - traffic study \*

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Michael,

I appreciate you reaching out on this as it will be important to maintain good communication on this project. See below responses for your questions:

1. It is not a DOT policy to wait for local approvals to provide comments on studies or plans that we receive, we try to review documents generally in a queue based on the order in which they come in. I think the timing

versus local approvals is probably generally a function of when submittals to DOT are made versus when local submittals are made. I agree that the traffic/access component of this project is a critical piece of the project.

2. Regarding the timing of our review that you mention below, It is unrealistic to expect DOT to have even preliminary comments to the Traffic Impact Study by January 8<sup>th</sup>. As I noted above we try to review these projects in order of how they come in and due to the impacts at the nearby signal this project requires review by the Bureau of Traffic and will be in queue with other statewide studies for review.
  - a. I do believe however that NHDOT's concerns with the project were laid out pretty well in the scoping meeting notes and generally revolve around how the left turn in and out movement's function with the queues on NH 108 from the existing Main St signal and the ability for Dunkin's delivery trucks to get into and out of the site.

Thank you,

**Roger Appleton, P.E.**

Assistant District Six Engineer

(603) 868-1133

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**From:** Michael Behrendt <[mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us](mailto:mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2024 3:03 PM

**To:** Appleton, Roger <[Roger.L.Appleton@dot.nh.gov](mailto:Roger.L.Appleton@dot.nh.gov)>; Crouch, Peter <[Peter.Crouch@dot.nh.gov](mailto:Peter.Crouch@dot.nh.gov)>

**Cc:** Scott Mitchell <[scott@tropicstardevelopment.com](mailto:scott@tropicstardevelopment.com)>; Jim Mitchell ([jmitchellsmre@gmail.com](mailto:jmitchellsmre@gmail.com)) <[jmitchellsmre@gmail.com](mailto:jmitchellsmre@gmail.com)>; Matt Perry <[mperry@theengineeringcorp.com](mailto:mperry@theengineeringcorp.com)>; Richard Reine <[rreine@ci.durham.nh.us](mailto:rreine@ci.durham.nh.us)>; Rene Kelley <[rkelley@ci.durham.nh.us](mailto:rkelley@ci.durham.nh.us)>

**Subject:** Dover Road #3 - traffic study \*

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Hello Roger and Peter (cc to Planning Board),  
Tropic Star Development has a preliminary design review application now before the Durham Planning Board to build a Dunkin Donuts at 3 Dover Road (the minutes from the NHDOT scoping meeting are attached). Dover Road/Route 108 is a state highway so NHDOT will need to approve the project. The application was presented on Wednesday, December 11 and the public hearing will be held on January 8. The preliminary application may or may not be closed that evening.

My understanding is that NHDOT does not generally provide comments on proposed projects until after the local Planning Board approves the project. I do not know whether or not that is actual NHDOT policy. With this application for 3 Dover Road traffic is a central issue. One important purpose of a preliminary review is to give all parties a good idea if there are significant red flags for the subsequent formal application. An applicant wants to avoid going to the expense of fully engineering a site plan if there are significant red flags, and the Planning Board wants to provide good feedback at the preliminary stage about possible red flags.

The applicant expects to have their traffic study prepared by January 2, if not earlier. It would be tremendously valuable for the Town of Durham if we are able to get comments (at least preliminary comments) from NHDOT about the traffic and the traffic study prior to closing the preliminary review.

Can we arrange for NHDOT to provide these comments after the traffic study is prepared? Thank you.

**Michael Behrendt**

Durham Town Planner

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