

12/4/19 PB MFJ  
Party in Interest

TO: Planning Board

FROM: Larry Theye and Betty Becker-Theye

RE: Traffic

DATE: November 13, 2019

As 27 year residents of 286 Northport Avenue, we have observed traffic in and out of the Water District and have grave concerns regarding the planned detour from Route 1 across the Water District property.

1. We are not aware of any traffic study conducted prior to the decision to establish this detour. Route 1 carries a great deal of truck traffic, including 18-wheelers. Large trucks will no doubt have trouble maneuvering a narrow, sharply winding detour immediately after crossing a narrow bridge. In the best case scenario, the detour will create a traffic bottleneck, especially during the busy tourist season.

2. The planned route has numerous drawbacks: a. It cuts into the 75 foot setback of trees that were promised as screening of the water treatment plant from Route 1. b. It will require construction of a bridge across the stream—a bridge substantial enough to accommodate heavy trucks. c. It will require relocation of power lines, the CMP transformer that serves the residential area, and cuts into the berm on which large oak trees are growing.

3. Nordic's claim for permission to cut into Route 1 in order to bury large intake and discharge pipes is a letter signed by Wayne Marshall with no authorization by state or federal transportation officials. Traffic interruptions caused by construction, repair, or alteration are normally justified because they serve a public need or service. This Route 1 interruption serves only the need of a for-profit corporation. Are we to understand that any for-profit corporation has the right to tear up a federal highway solely for its own benefit, based on the assent of a single local official?

4. Route 1 outside the bypass is maintained by the state, not by Belfast's Public Works. Yet Public Works, supported by Belfast taxpayers, is authorized to destroy and reconstruct the highway for the benefit of Nordic Aquafarms. Who will maintain the detour that will be located on private property? This property (286 Northport Avenue) will be cut off from Route 1. Who will be responsible for maintaining access from this property to Route 1? Do not state or federal transportation officials have TRI in this project?

5. Finally, a general observation. Selection of the Water District as the site for a project that requires access to the ocean for its intake and discharge pipes seems unwise considering that a busy federal highway and established residences separate it from the ocean. Besides, this area was zoned residential, which should have automatically eliminated this site for industrial development.

## Re: Comments on Traffic

Public Hearing

Wed 11/13/2019 1:26 PM

To: Betty Becker-Theye <drstheye@gmail.com>

Hello Larry and Betty

I have received your comment on Traffic and will provide such to the Planning Board.

Also, we have changed the Planning Board schedule for the review of traffic concerns. We have cancelled any review of the Nordic application for the Board meeting of November 20 (conflicts with other Planning Board work), and have rescheduled this meeting for Wednesday, December 4 at the Hutchinson Center.

We just posted the cancellation of the November 20 meeting on the website yesterday and will be posting the agenda for the December 4 meeting early next week.

With the cancellation of the November 20 meeting, the City will accept additional comments on the traffic issue through November 20 if you would like to submit any additional information.

Thanks for submitting your comments.

Wayne

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**From:** Betty Becker-Theye <drstheye@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 8:53 AM

**To:** Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

**Subject:** Comments on Traffic

Hello Wayne,

The attached file is intended to be shared with the Planning Board relative to their November 13 meeting.

Larry and Betty