

Route 5 Corridor Study Advisory Committee Minutes

05/22/2018 at 2:00 PM

East Windsor Town Hall
11 Rye Street
Broad Brook, CT

Advisory Committee Members and Alternates

Robert Maynard – Town of East Windsor, First Selectman
Edward DeMarco – Town of East Windsor Police Department
Rand Stanley – Town of East Windsor, Building Department
Roger Hart – Town of East Windsor Police Department
Matthew Tyksinski - Town of East Windsor, Planning and Development

Joe Ouellette – Chairman, Town of East Windsor Planning and Zoning Commission
Joseph Sauerhoefer – Town of East Windsor Department of Public Works
Tom Talamini - Resident
Despina Tartsinis – Sofia’s Plaza
Larry Tribble – Southern Auto Auction

Additional Attendees

Timothy Malone – CRCOG
Pramod Pandey – CRCOG
Richard Austin - Resident

Casey Hardin – TranSystems
Nick Mandler – TranSystems
George Varessis– Sofia’s Plaza

The Meeting Started at 2:05 PM

1) Introductions

Tim Malone gave a brief introduction to the study and went over recent progress, including the team’s attendance at the Abby’s Walk charity event.

2) Public Comment

No members of the general public had any comments to share.

3) Minutes

Tim Malone asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes. He asked for a motion to approve them.

Motion: Joe Ouellette motioned to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Tom Talamini. Passed unanimously.

4) Existing Conditions Analysis

Casey Hardin and Nick Mandler gave an overview of the existing conditions analysis that is underway. They went over the traffic data collected to date, including vehicle counts, turning movement counts, bike/pedestrian counts, transit use, crash locations, and vehicle speeds. They also discussed the status of traffic signal control hardware, noting that some signals were not currently functioning as designed and that the system is not fully coordinated. They presented an analysis of traffic operations, showing intersections where backups occur. They also showed an analysis of crash hot-spots, including the manner, severity, and cause of crashes. The team also showed land-use and zoning information that was assembled for the previous Route 5 corridor land-use study.

5) Questions / Discussion

Below is a summary of questions/discussion:

Larry Tribble: Does the crash history coincide with the increased speeds in the south end of the corridor?

- During the crash rate analysis, the team explained that in the higher-speed areas south of Thompson Road, crash rates were generally lower, but that the severity was higher.

Joe Ouellette: What is the time period for the crash analysis?

- The time period was 3 years, from January 2015 through December 2017, using the University of Connecticut Crash Data Repository.

Larry Tribble: If nobody rides the bus, why have it? Who funds it?

- The service is part of CT*transit*'s express bus service. The route through East Windsor only occurs twice a day and is a deviation of the normal route. The team speculates that it may be done as a way of getting the buses to the appropriate locations for staging purposes.

Tom Talamini: You have low pedestrian volumes because it's hard to cross four lanes of traffic.

- The existing environment is not conducive to pedestrian travel. Pedestrian amenities are being investigated as part of the Route 5 Corridor Study.

Larry: Will the casino have a new off-ramp?

- Casey Hardin explained that this would be unlikely due to the proximity of other interchanges, but that the existing interchanges may be modified to better accommodate traffic. Joe Ouellette added that federal policy prohibits freeway exits onto private property.

Robert Maynard: Do projects from these studies ever get funded by the Connecticut DOT?

- Tim Malone answered that they do, though it can take a while to line up the funding.

It was noted that cars frequently back up at the I-91 Exit 44 / Newbury Road intersection.

Tom Talamini: At the beginning you mentioned bus service at the Windsor Locks train station, how would you get people to there?

- One option could be a short bus loop. There has also been discussion of increased pedestrian access across the river.

6) Next Steps

Casey Hardin explained that the team would continue to analyze data and meet with stakeholders. They will finalize the assessment of existing conditions and that will be shared with the committee. The next step is to start on the future conditions analysis. The team will also continue to plan outreach events for the fall.

The Meeting Adjourned at 3:30 PM