

**Route 44 Corridor Study, Canton
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #2
October 16, 2023, 12:00pm
Draft Meeting Notes
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

On October 13, 2023, the Route 44 Corridor Study (the Study) TAC Meeting #2 was held virtually via Microsoft Teams with Canton representatives, CRCOG staff, CTDOT project team and the study Consultant, VHB and VN Engineers. The purpose of the meeting was to go over existing conditions information collected by the Consultant Team to date, solicit comments and discuss next steps. A list of meeting attendees are included for reference. The TAC also discussed the first Public Information Meeting for the project which is scheduled for December 7 at the Canton Community Center.

Discussion Items

The meeting began with Pramod Pandey (CRCOG) welcoming the meeting attendees, with a brief overview of the study followed by attendees introducing themselves. Pandey shared the kick-off meeting notes and said that future meeting notes would be sent around for TAC review and approval at the TAC meetings.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Pramod thanked the attendees for their support and involvement in the study and asked to contact him and/or Joe Balskus (VHB) if they have any questions and suggestions and mentioned that the meeting materials will be posted on the study webpage that will be hosted by CRCOG.

2. Public Comments

Pandey asked if any attendees wanted to make public comments.

• Lisa Coggins:

- Near Route 44 and Dowd Ave is the FOCUS Center for Autism Fresh Start School. There is another building for the FOCUS Center for Autism on Route 44.

- There is missing sidewalk between the two buildings. They should be contacted for public feedback on the project.
- Coggins also asked if the meeting could be recorded. Pandey noted they will be recorded in the future.
 - Bill Volovski:
 - The public survey for the project needs to be more widely distributed.
 - Neil Pade noted that he circulated the public survey this morning to various Town contacts.
3. Existing Conditions Presentation
- VHB presented on existing conditions in the US-44/Dowd Ave corridor, including traffic counts, capacity analysis, safety data, bicycle and pedestrian observations and data, public transportation data, public outreach to date, and future public outreach including stakeholder interviews and the first public meeting. Additional information will be forthcoming with the development of the existing conditions technical memo.
4. Discussion
- i. Neil Pade (Town of Canton):
 - a. The Town is interested in determining the best location for a traffic signal on the east end of the corridor by the Simsbury Line. This would assist with proposed developments and also provide a crossing for the extension of the Farmington River Trail.
 - b. The Town has decided to hold the public meeting on December 7, to dovetail with a pedestrian safety committee that has recently been created. A time is to be determined.
 - ii. Bill Volovski (Board of Selectman)
 - a. More information needs to be shown about bicycle/pedestrian traffic on the Farmington River Trail. There should be a trail counter to collect data from.
 - b. Neil Pade noted he would forward this information to the VHB Team.
 - iii. Jan Tanner (Benidorm Bikes, Bike Walk Canton):
 - a. Explain the assessment 20 years into the future? Balskus explained that the VHB Team will look at things like traffic growth 20 years into the future, and future potential development. This is typical of corridor studies.

- b. What about development west of this corridor, and the Route 179/US-44 interchange? Can this be incorporated? Pandey said it could be a recommendation in the current study to follow-up with another study to look at this part of the town.
- c. Can the corridor be converted to have bike lanes? Is that possible? Caswell Smith from CTDOT explained that recent changes in CTDOT policy will require the department to include bicycle and pedestrian improvements in projects. Balskus noted that future concepts will need to include bicycle and pedestrian elements to them.
- d. Tanner requested to be interviewed as part of the stakeholder interviews.

5. Trail Project Status

Neil updated the group about the status of the trail project in the study area.

- a. The trail design project for the extension of the Farmington River Trail will lag behind the Corridor Study.
- b. Pade showed preliminary design concepts and noted constrained areas, such as on Route 44 near the intersection with Secret Lake Road, and near the rocky areas by the Simsbury border.
- c. The current plan is to keep the trail on the south side of US-44 until more information about a crossing is recommended.

6. Next Steps

- a. The VHB Team will send around the Existing Conditions Technical Memo in the next couple of weeks for review before the public meeting. Pandey said the goal was to finalize the memo by the time of the public meeting.
- b. The VHB Team will conduct stakeholder interviews over the next several weeks to gather feedback about the project and transportation issues in the area. Jan Tanner suggested adding the Martel Bus Company and the Canton Board of Education to the stakeholder list.
- c. Public Meeting #1: This meeting will be held on December 7 and will go over existing conditions and include a presentation, handouts, and a Q&A portion. The VHB Team will provide meeting flyer to The Town to send out to the public for this meeting. The meeting will likely be in the large meeting room in the Community Center. CRCOG and the VHB Team coordinate with the Town on the exact evening timing of the meeting.

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