

**Route 44 Corridor Study, Canton  
Study Kick-off Meeting  
June 12, 2023, 12:00pm  
Draft Meeting Notes  
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

On June 12, 2023, the Route 44 Corridor Study (the Study) Kick-off Meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams with Canton representatives, CRCOG staff, CTDOT project team and the study Consultant, VHB and VN Engineers. This kickoff meeting was held to the Study, introduce the TAC committee members, the CTDOT representatives, and the project consultant team, review the project, review the scope of work, schedule, solicit comments and discuss next steps. A list of meeting attendees are included for reference.

**Discussion Items**

1. The meeting began with Pramod Pandey (CRCOG) introducing the study to the meeting attendees, with a brief overview of the study. Neil Pade, Town of Canton provided some background to the US-44 Corridor Study Project, followed by introduction of the other attendees, followed by a presentation by VHB and discussion.
  - a. Neil commented that US-44 serves as a major connector to Hartford. Recently Canton's form-based code has permitted the development of various higher-density parcels along the study's area. In addition, the Farmington River Trail Extension project to the south of Dowd Avenue is closely connected to this study. A consultant will be selected to design this shortly, with construction of the initial phase to be completed later this year or next year. It will extend the Farmington River Trail to the Shops at Farmington Valley with plans to continue it further east to Simsbury. There was a general comment about the need for signalization analysis along this corridor.
  - b. VHB then presented an overview of the project approach explaining corridor characteristics, traffic simulation, crash analysis, public involvement, and coordination with CTDOT, CRCOG and the Town of Canton.
2. An open discussion was then held to gain insight and feedback from the attendees about the issues facing the community. The following list details the discussion and a general summary of the discussion:
  - a. Neil Pade (Town of Canton):
    - i. Safety is paramount.
    - ii. Safe access must be ensured for all users, the needs of non-motorized users must be in balance with the need to move freight, motorized users, and transit users.
    - iii. Outreach needs to include CTTransit riders.
  - b. Jan Tanner (Benidorm Bikes, Bike Walk Canton):
    - i. There are major safety concerns along the Corridor.
    - ii. Not safe for cyclists.

- iii. The sidewalk along the corridor is deficient.
  - iv. Accessibility to shops must accommodate bikers and walkers.
  - v. Excessive Speeds all along corridor are dangerous.
  - vi. Requests the Project team analyze US-44 west to CT 179 intersection beyond the current parameters.
  - c. Fred Kulakowski (CTDOT):
    - i. Request for study parameters, using mile posts.
  - d. Tim Bowman (Canton Resident, Bike Walk Canton)
    - i. The signal at the intersection of Secret Lake Road and Mitchell Subaru are not synced, meaning that the side street approaches run separately. The suggestion was to review the potential realignment of approaches. The consultant should look at this during the study.
  - e. Bill Volovski (Board of Selectman):
    - i. Public outreach must be extended to the residents along Dowd Avenue at the four senior centers, two of which are within the project study area, and the other two extend beyond the area along Dowd Avenue.
    - ii. Speed is a major concern and must be incorporated into analysis.
    - iii. Affordable Housing units on Dowd Avenue should be consulted.
    - iv. Major non-profit employer along Dowd Avenue.
  - f. Pramod Pandey (CRCOG) explained to the meeting attendees about the tentative meeting schedule. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings will be held during business hours, preferably between 12-2pm. Public information meetings will be scheduled during evenings and weekends starting in late September or October to ensure accessibility. Traffic counts were conducted last week to ensure school-generated traffic was included in the data set. There was a general suggestion that the consultant wait until Fall, 2023 to conduct outreach to include more people traditionally away during the summer months.
  - g. The group then discussed recent developments in the corridor.
    - i. Property at Southside of US-44 at 55 Albany Turnpike has a high-density residential proposal which is before the Planning and Zoning Commission for review.
    - ii. At 5 / 9 Albany Turnpike, another residential development is being reviewed by Planning and Zoning.
    - iii. A second access point was made to the Shops at Farmington Valley along Secret Lake Road
      - a. Sidenote that the Trail to rear of Shops site is component of Farmington River Trail Study.
    - iv. The Shoppe at Canton Village on Dowd Avenue
      - a. A 55-unit residential site is in the process of approval for development.
      - b. A 6-unit site on Dowd Avenue is also in the process of approval.
3. 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.

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Meeting Attendees**

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Organization</b>        | <b>Email</b>   |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Cara Radzins      | CRCOG                      | cradzins@crcog.org                                       |
| Pramod Pandey     | CRCOG                      | <a href="mailto:ppandey@crcog.org">ppandey@crcog.org</a> |
| Jacob Knowlton    | CRCOG                      | jknowlton@crcog.org                                      |
| Sotoria Montanari | CRCOG                      | smontanari@crcog.org                                     |
| Neil Pade         | Town of Canton             | npade@townofcantonct.org                                 |
| Robert Martin     | Town of Canton             | rmartin@townofcantonct.org                               |
| Melanie Carr      | Shops at Farmington Valley | Melanie.Carr@wsdevelopment.com                           |
| Bill Volovski     | Canton Board of Selectman  | billvolovski@yahoo.com                                   |
| Jan Tanner        | Bike Walk Canton/Benidorm  | jan@benidormbikes.com                                    |
| Lisa Coggins      | Bike Walk Canton           | lc2w2kids@gmail.com                                      |
| Fred Kulakowski   | CTDOT                      | frederick.kulakowski@ct.gov                              |
| Caswell Smith     | CTDOT                      | caswell.smith@ct.gov                                     |
| Tim Bowman        | Bike Walk Canton           | tim.bowman@legrand.com                                   |
| Grayson Wright    | CTDOT                      | grayson.wright@ct.gov                                    |
| Matthew Tyskinski | CTDOT                      | matthew.tyskinski@ct.gov                                 |
| Will Britnell     | VHB                        | wbritnell@vhb.com  |
| Charlie Baker     | VHB                        | charlesbaker@vhb.com                                     |
| Dan Amstutz       | VHB                        | damstutz@vhb.com   |
| Eric Tang         | VHB                        | etang@vhb.com  |
| Joe Balskus       | VHB                        | Jbalskus@VHB.com>  |
| Mark Jewell       | VHB                        | mjewell@vhb.com  |
| Bridget Moriarty  | VN                         | bmoriarty@vnengineers.com                                |
| David Evens       |                            | Canton Resident  |