

Public Information Meeting Minutes
Suffield Traffic Safety Study - Suffield, CT
March 8, 2022; Town Hall & Remote

Present: Karen Isherwood, Town Engineer, Suffield
Craig Yannes, Study Project Manager, Tighe & Bond
Chris Granatini, Project Director, Tighe & Bond
Bill Hawkins, Director of Planning & Development, Suffield

Karen Isherwood began the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Craig Yannes began the presentation by discussing the Study Overview, including the study process and mission statement..."To develop cost-effective and implementable physical transportation improvements that effectively mitigate safety issues, infrastructure deficiencies, and identify educational opportunities to promote a safety culture for all travel modes."

He reviewed the results from the public map survey that was conducted earlier, and the town's collision history. Study locations were and data collection methods were discussed.

Six categories of traffic safety were discussed in further detail including recommended practices to address each category, including:

- 1) Intersection Traffic Control:
Traffic signal installation or modifications;
All-way stop control; and
Roundabouts

- 2) Intersection Layout:
Roadway realignments;
Access and flow pattern modifications; and
Turn lane additions

Public comment was solicited at this time. Lester Smith was present at the meeting and indicated he was in favor of intersection realignment at the intersection of Mapleton/Thompsonville Rd. He questioned the consultants view on rumble strips and whether they are a good idea. Craig Yannes responded that rumble strips are a proven safety measure, and subject to wear and should be preserved. A question was raised as to whether the data collected was all over town, and Craig represented affirmatively.

Dave Gauthier attended virtually and indicated he is a proponent of roundabouts and is thankful that the town is looking into these measures. He relayed his discussion with DOT to recommend a roundabout at the town center and was informed that the Town

was not interested in a roundabout at the center, and sought better timing of signals. He discussed the difficulty of emergency ladder trucks and ambulances navigating through the intersection at certain times.

Discussion continued about the difficulty of turning left onto Phelps Rd from Mountain Rd due to existing rock outcroppings and that the cross-section of Phelps Rd should be modified to slope away from the guide rail/embankment.

Craig Yannes continued with his presentation:

- 3) Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities:
 - Add sidewalks with redevelopment;
 - Implement improvements in CT Bike Ped Plan and CROCOG Complete Streets Plan;
 - Seek funding for Municipal sponsored sidewalk projects; and
 - Shoulder widening for bikes and sidewalk facility improvements

No public comment upon completion.

- 4) Pedestrian Crossings:
 - Improve existing crossing locations;
 - Review locations, relocate or add new crossing locations;
 - Improve accessibility with ramps and connecting crossings to sidewalks; and
 - Install upgraded equipment at signalized crossings
- 5) Traffic calming & speed control:
 - Neighborhood traffic calming programs;
 - Continued enforcement;
 - Additional speed feedback signs & trailer deployment;
 - Install Curve Warning Signage; and
 - Establish a traffic safety culture
- 6) Roadway Curve Signage:
 - Existing state and upcoming local roadway curve warning signage project

Public comment: Lester Smith discourages use of too much signage, including variable text signage that may distract drivers. He thought the town center could use a roundabout.

Tom Frenaye questioned the schedule of this work, what time period?

Craig responded that the study will provide recommendations, and will be completed in the next few months. Another meeting is to be scheduled in May to review the final report.

Upon completion, the Town will decide to pursue funding from the State for recommended projects, as funding becomes available.

Mr. Frenaye asked if the report would include cost estimates. Mr. Yannes indicated yes.

Mr. Gauthier mentioned he thought the meeting wasn't well advertised.

Mr. Yannes indicated we would try to issue reminders closer to the date of the next meeting, which might be scheduled in May.

The meeting terminated at around 8:00 pm.