



East Montpelier Kick-Off Meetings Notes

August 23, 2017

1. Introductions: Bruce Johnson, Guthrie Perry, Frank Pratt, Sue Racanelli, Chris Racanelli, Rachel Grossman, Paul Erlbaum, Dan Currier, Roger Dickinson, and Jim Donovan each introduced themselves and their reason for being involved in the Steering Committee.
2. Finalize the limits of the study areas: Jim presented an aerial photo of the intersection with a red circle indicating the draft limits of the study area. The SC agreed that the red circle was a good approximation of the limits of the study area to the north and west. They suggested extending it to the east to at least partially down the hill to at least School House Road and potentially even further if needed for consideration of speed and sight distance issues. They also suggested that the study area extend to the top of the hill south of the intersection on Gallison Hill Road. Roger will verify that the red circle extends far enough to include complete consideration of sight distances in each direction and will adjust the circle to extend further if needed.
3. Finalize the scope of the study: Jim provided an overview of the scope of work, as presented in the L&D Team proposal. The SC had no suggestions for modifications to the scope as presented.
4. Confirm the public involvement program: Jim reviewed the three public work sessions included as part of the scope of work, describing when they occurred in the process and the purpose of each session. He also raised the potential for having one or more work sessions with students at U32. Bruce indicated that the School was invited to participate in the Kick-Off Meeting and the Steering Committee, but representatives indicated they were too busy to participate. They requested to be kept informed of the study. Bruce and Dan will follow up with school representatives to see if they would be interested in having a work session with some students. Jim asked if there were any other groups that might benefit from a targeted presentation. After some discussion of potentials, the SC decided that no additional public involvement sessions appeared to be needed. Roger requested the name of the school bus coordinator so that he could contact them about school bus schedules and routes.

5. Set a refined project schedule: Jim shared a draft schedule for the project covering planned meetings and submission dates. The SC made a few modifications to the dates. They also decided that 6 PM would be the optimum time for them to meet. An updated schedule is attached to these notes.
6. Organize Steering Committee: Bruce and the rest of the SC had a few suggestions on who might also be an appropriate member of the SC, but the only final addition on which they agreed was a representative from the State Police. Bruce will check to see if they are interested in providing input for this study either as a member of the SC or as a reviewer.
7. Develop initial stakeholders list: Everyone thought that the other landowners near the intersection should be included on a stakeholders list and notified of the public work sessions.
8. Define lines of communication: Bruce asked that communications be sent to him and he would distribute to the SC and others as needed. Communications sent to Bruce will also be copied to Dan.
9. Discuss critical issues: The SC brought up numerous issues related to the intersection and surrounding area -
 - Towne Hill Road was paved sometime in the early 1990s.
 - The vegetation in the summer and the snow banks in the winter limit sight distances at the intersection.
 - The ditches are too deep along the sides of the road.
 - There are both GMT and school bus stops at the intersection.
 - The GMT bus travels along Towne Hill Road; the school busses travel to and from the school on Gallison Hill Road, turning in both directions at the intersection.
 - There are no special destinations for motorists, bicyclists, or walkers on Brazier Road, but it is used as a connection to Center Road.
 - The morning peak traffic for the school on Brazier and Gallison Hill Road coincides with the peak for morning commuters heading to Montpelier on Towne Hill Road.
 - The evening peak traffic for the school coming north on Gallison Hill Road is somewhat dispersed with the normal and late school buses and also for the commuter traffic heading home from Montpelier on Towne Hill Road.
 - There is a day care center with morning and afternoon traffic in the second house west of the intersection on the south side of Towne Hill Road.

- The track and cross country teams from the school runs along Gallison Hill Road to Towne Hill Road where they turn and head back to the school.
- Motorists on Towne Hill Road appear to regularly exceed the speed limit of 40 MPH; some of the past traffic counts have included speeds, so this can be checked.
- The State Police provide police service to the Town and might have some insights about conditions at the intersection.
- The intersection would have more walkers if there were shoulders on the road or other locations for walkers that they perceived to be safe.
- Signs should only be used as a last resort because they get shot when they are erected in the vicinity of this intersection.
- The “Dangerous Intersection” sign south of the intersection on Gallison Hill Road was noted as possibly being a liability issue for the Town when it was erected, but it has not been removed.

10. Exchange information: No additional information was exchanged.

11. Discuss other issues that may arise: The SC thought that all of the issues relating to the intersection that they could think of at this time had been discussed.