

TOWN OF  
EAST MONTPELIER, VERMONT  
SELECTBOARD

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Chair, Seth Gardner (2018 – 2021)

March 30, 2020

Ian Degutis, Traffic Operations Engineer  
VTrans Traffic Operations Unit

By email: [ian.degutis@vermont.gov](mailto:ian.degutis@vermont.gov)

Re: Study of US Rte. 2 speed limit around Towne Hill Road intersection in East Montpelier

Dear Mr. Degutis:

The Town of East Montpelier would like to request consideration for a traffic safety study of the US Rte. 2 segment running from Mekkelsen RV Sales & Rentals to Codling Road in East Montpelier, focusing in particular on the dynamics around the Towne Hill Road intersection.

US Rte. 2 is part of the federal highway system and is by far the busiest road in East Montpelier. Towne Hill Road is a major point-to-point commuter and local traffic highway running from US Rte. 2 west to its terminus at Main Street in Montpelier. The Towne Hill Road approach to this intersection is a steep descent with woods on both sides to a T-intersection with the Winooski River lurking just to the east. The sight lines and viewshed to the north on US Rte. 2 from the intersection are challenging at all times, and worse in both summer growth season and winter snowbank periods. This is a two-lane road section, with enough room on US Rte. 2 to loop around turning vehicles, creating another opportunity for trouble. There have been a number of accidents involving injuries in the intersection zone. Just two weeks ago there was a scary t-bone crash that avoided injuries thanks to some deft driving on the part of one of the parties.

The town would like to see a lowering of the US Rte. 2 speed limit of 50 mph for the segment starting at the current point of increase from 35 mph at Mekkelsen RV Sales & Rentals to a point near Codling Road, well south of the Towne Hill Road intersection. The US Rte. 2 conditions of high speeds and traffic volumes, challenging site lines, and turning vehicles coupled with pressure from traffic lining up behind create an atmosphere for the Towne Hill Road driver that is not conducive to a safe entrance onto US Rte. 2.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Seth B. Gardner  
East Montpelier Selectboard Chair