

September 21, 2015

Thomas A. Harley
Connecticut Department of Transportation
Bureau of Engineering & Construction
2800 Berlin Turnpike
P.O. Box 317546
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Subject: Bolton Notch Project Recommendations

Dear Mr. ~~Harley~~, Tom

The Town of Bolton is very interested in the implementation of projects that address safety and connectivity deficiencies at the terminus of the I-384 expressway at Routes 6 and 44 in Bolton Notch.

In January of 2013, a final report was issued for the Route 6 Hop River Corridor Transportation Study which identified four (4) potential projects that aim to address these deficiencies. The study was administered by the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) in cooperation with the Route 6 Economic Development Council, Windham Region Council of Governments and the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The report, which received CRCOG and Town endorsements, can be accessed via the following link: http://www.crcog.org/transportation/current_stud/Route6.html

CRCOG is requesting that CTDOT's Project Development Unit investigate the possibility that the identified recommendations (or similar improvements) be progressed into a project (or projects). Following their review a meeting may be appropriate to discuss advancing these projects, potentially via inclusion in CTDOT's Five Year Capital Plan. A brief summary of the identified deficiencies and needs and report recommendations follows.

Bolton Notch Area Safety Deficiencies

The report summarizes accident history in the vicinity of the interchange from 2006-2008, and identifies the following area safety concerns:

- Notch Road at Route 6: The report describes 8 accidents at this location. It states that the accident patterns were primarily fixed object collisions attributed to excessive speeds, drivers losing control or drivers failing to grant the right of way. Additionally there has been a 2014 fatality at this location which is highlighted in the attached news article (Attachment A).
- Route 6 between Notch Road and Stony Road: The report describes 32 accidents at this location. It states that half of the accidents were predominately either turning related or fixed object collisions attributed to excessive speeds.
- Inadequate sight distance and long delays at the existing unsignalized intersection of Notch Road with Routes 6/44.
- At times cyclists illegally travel on the expressway to make missing connections between Route 6, Route 44, and the Hop River Trail.

Section 2.1.5 of the report describes the patterns of the accidents in further detail (Attachment B).

Bolton Notch Area Connectivity Deficiencies

In addition, the report highlights the following connectivity deficiencies:

- Lack of a connection between westbound Route 6 and eastbound Route 44, and between westbound Route 44 and eastbound Route 6.
- Lack of a direct connection from Notch Road to westbound Route 6 and from westbound Route 44 to Notch Road.
- Lack of bicycle and pedestrian access between Route 6, Route 44, and the Hop River Trail within the existing junction.

Bolton Notch Area Recommendations

The report developed a number of short and long term recommendations to address deficiencies in the Bolton Notch area. They are outlined in Section 4.1.2 of the report (Attachment C) and in the Implementation Plan (Attachment D), which discusses the following specific projects that could be implemented for the area:

1. Bolton Notch – Interim Safety Improvements at Notch Road (\$200,000): Small sized project that aims to mitigate safety concerns at Notch Road by improving intersection warning signage and sight lines.
2. Bolton Notch – Low Speed Boulevard Improvements (\$3.0 million): Medium sized project that aims to encourage slower speeds in the corridor.
3. Bolton Notch – Notch Road Ext. and Route 6/44 Improvements (\$25 million): Large sized, high priority project which aims to enhance safety and address all connectivity issues in the interchange area.
4. Bolton Notch – Pedestrian and Bike Improvements (\$300,000): Small sized project which aims to improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity through Bolton Notch to the Hop River Trail.

For your review and consideration, I have attached and highlighted sections of the Route 6 Hop River Corridor Transportation Study as described in this letter. Your attention to these identified recommendations is appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jennifer M. Carrier, P.E.
Director of Transportation Planning

CC via email: Timothy M. Wilson, P.E., CTDOT
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