

Client:	Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG)	Date:	March 28, 2023
Meeting Date:	March 28, 2023	Prepared By:	Joe Rimiller, PE, PTOE
Meeting Location:	Microsoft Teams	Job Number:	10369
Meeting Topic:	Route 161 Corridor Study – Advisory Committee Meeting #9		

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## ATTENDEES:

NAME	ADDRESS / AFFILIATION	NAME	ADDRESS / AFFILIATION
Joe Rimiller	BETA Group	Kevin Seery	Town of East Lyme 1 <sup>st</sup> Selectman
Jeff Maxtutis	BETA Group	Christian Lund	East Lyme Public Schools
James Butler	SCCOG	Kevin Leach	
Amanda Kennedy	SCCOG		
Kate Rattan	SCCOG		
Fred Kulakowski	CTDOT, Traffic Engineering Operations		
Claudel Merronis	CTDOT, Traffic Engineering Operations		
Kevin McKernan	CTDOT PDU		
Gary Sojka	CTDOT Planning		

## RECORD OF MEETING MINUTES:

The Route 161 Corridor Study Advisory Committee convened for a meeting via Microsoft Teams. The following items were discussed:

### I. Draft Conceptual Alternatives

- The following revisions have been incorporated into the draft conceptual alternatives since the last Advisory Committee Meeting:
  - Symbology indicating widening of sidewalks has been adjusted at the south end of the corridor
  - The recommendation to provide advance pedestrian warning signs at the King Arthur Drive intersection has been removed. CTDOT does not install advanced pedestrian warning signs at signalized intersections.
  - A recommendation has been added indicating that the existing sidewalk on the east side of the corridor between Laurel Hills Drive and Dunkin' could be widened to 5'.
  - The access management plan has been updated to reflect that True Value's driveway will be relocated to a new access road as part of the Interchange 74 project.

## II. Midway Plaza

- Retaining walls were discussed as possibly being needed to accommodate the proposed shared use path in front of Midway Plaza due to steep grading at the north end of the property. BETA performed additional analysis and determined that the proposed 8' shared use path and 5' buffer could be accommodated with 2:1 grading and no easement. Split rail fencing would be provided between the shared use path and the Midway Plaza property. Existing guiderail would be relocated to the grass buffer area. This option is preferable as a retaining wall would be more costly, require maintenance, and an easement would be anticipated to accommodate the wall's footing.
- An easement would still be anticipated at the south end of the property where right-of-way is more restricted.
- The access management plan has been updated to show the northern driveway being closed. This was due to safety concerns caused by the steep grade of the driveway and friction with vehicles turning from the dental office parking lot across the street.

## III. Route 161/East Pattagansett Road Roundabout

- BETA incorporated several revisions following a meeting with Scott Bushee from CTDOT's Roundabout unit. These include:
  - Lengthening the splitter islands on the Route 161 approaches and providing more horizontal deflection to encourage speed reduction.
  - Lengthening the splitter island on Chapman Farms Road so it will be less prone to plow damage.
  - Adjusting the central island landscaping to include a flagpole rather than a tree. This would be less of a collision hazard.
  - Showing a stamped concrete treatment for the splitter islands to eliminate the need for mowing/landscaping.
  - Providing a grass buffer between the sidewalk and vehicular circulating area at the intersection's southeast corner.
- CTDOT PDU staff stressed the importance of uplighting and street lighting for safety.
- SCCOG staff indicated that sufficient irrigation should be provided for the proposed plantings in the form of spigots, water cisterns, or other drainage.

## IV. Construction Cost Estimates

- BETA shared itemized construction cost estimates that were developed for the treatments for which concept plans and renderings were developed
- BETA developed order-of-magnitude cost estimates for remaining recommendations.

## V. Permitting

- The following permits are anticipated to implement the proposed pedestrian improvements along the south end of Gorton Pond:
  - Town Inland Wetlands permit
  - Self-Verification Form under the US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Connecticut General Permits 17A

- Land and Water Resource Division (LWRD) License Application (Form L) to CTDEEP for Inland Wetlands and Watercourse
- The total area impacted by timber boardwalk construction is estimated at 411 s.f. The total area impacted by concrete sidewalk and retaining wall construction is 44 s.f.
- The following permits are anticipated to implement proposed recommendations elsewhere along the corridor:
  - NDDDB Consultation
  - DEEP Stormwater Permit
  - Coastal Management Act Site Plan Review
  - Town Inland Wetlands permit

#### VI. Public Information Meeting #2

- The second public information has been scheduled for Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM
- The meeting will be held at the Middle School auditorium (the high school auditorium was booked.)
- BETA will provide SCCOG, Kevin Seery, and Kevin McKernan with a draft Powerpoint presentation for review by Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Comments will be requested by Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The presentation will be posted on the project website prior to the meeting.
- BETA will focus on more substantial recommendations rather than reviewing every recommendation. Residents will have an opportunity to view all of the recommendations in more detail at exhibits following the presentation.
- The access management plan will be discussed in more general terms.
- The recommendation maps and access management plan will be posted on the project website prior to the meeting. (Drafts will be sent to SCCOG, Kevin Seery, and Kevin McKernan as well.)
- For areas where two alternatives are recommended, BETA will present the pros and cons of each option and ask attendees to vote on a preferred alternative. Stakeholders will also have the opportunity to vote for a preferred alternative on the project website.
- BETA will share a draft press release and flyer for SCCOG's review. Following approval the First Selectman's office will distribute the press release to the Day and the Connecticut Examiner. Mr. Seery will have the flyer posted at the Community Center and Town Hall bulletin boards.
- Christian Lund will facilitate displaying a notice at the high school's variable message sign.
- BETA will send two e-mail announcements to the project mailing list.

#### VII. Next Advisory Committee Meeting

- The next advisory committee meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>