

Client: Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) Date: January 25, 2023
 Meeting Date: January 24, 2023 Prepared By: Joe Rimiller, PE, PTOE
 Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams Job Number: 10369
 Meeting Topic: Route 161 Corridor Study – Advisory Committee Meeting #7

ATTENDEES:

NAME	ADDRESS / AFFILIATION	NAME	ADDRESS / AFFILIATION
Joe Rimiller	BETA Group	Gary Sojka	CTDOT Planning
Jeff Maxtutis	BETA Group	Alex Klose	Town of East Lyme DPW
Anna Sangree	BETA Group	Gary Goeschel	Town of East Lyme Planning
James Butler	SCCOG	Kevin Seery	Town of East Lyme 1 st Selectman
Kate Rattan	SCCOG	Christian Lund	East Lyme Public Schools
Fred Kulakowski	CTDOT, Traffic Engineering Operations		
Claudel Merronis	CTDOT, Traffic Engineering Operations		
Kevin McKernan	CTDOT PDU		
Tyler Roth	CTDOT Public Transport		

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
 - BETA shared draft conceptual alternatives plans for the corridor
 - It was noted that a member of the public was having difficulty accessing the Microsoft Teams link provided on the agenda on the project website. BETA will check the link posted in future meeting agendas.
 - Recommendations included bike lanes in areas. It is anticipated that the Town would be required to take over maintenance of the bike lane pavement markings. Fred Kulakowski from CTDOT will confirm maintenance responsibilities.
 - Gary Sojka suggested that the plans be reoriented to have the north arrow oriented towards the top of the pages.

- It was suggested that the locating a sidepath on the east side of Route 161 between East Lyme High School and U.S. Route 1 is not ideal since sidepath is proposed on the west side of Route 161 further down the corridor and users would have to cross at the intersection. BETA noted that the sidepath was shown on this side because there are fewer curb cuts and opportunities for conflicts with turning vehicles. BETA will further examine the location of the sidepath in this segment. Curb cuts on the west side of the corridor could be reduced through access management strategies.
- It was noted that impacts to the electrical substation near Frontage Road should be avoided if the proposed sidepath concept is advanced.
- Advisory committee members asked BETA to examine the feasibility of installing a pedestrian refuge island at the Route 161 intersection. This could improve safety for pedestrians crossing between the two bus shelters proposed at the intersection.
- Kate Rattan asked BETA to investigate improved accommodations for pedestrians crossing Route 161 at the King Arthur Drive intersection. There could be increased pedestrian demand as residents of high-density housing in the area utilize the new bus shelter in the commuter lot.
- Gary Goeschel inquired as to whether landscaping plans had been developed for the commuter lot. BETA has the landscaping plans developed by CTDOT and will share these with the Town.
- Alex Klose indicated that a 5' sidewalk is planned on Industrial Park Road. BETA will schedule a call with the Town to coordinate on the planned improvements.
- Gary Sojka recommended that CTDOT's roundabout unit review the proposed roundabout at the East Pattagansett Road intersection. They may have some concerns about the grading on the Chapman Farms approach.
- Concurrent or LPI phasing at the Route 161 may be preferable for the Town's LOTCIP application for sidewalk improvements on East Pattagansett Road. Exclusive pedestrian phasing would also impact operations at Roxbury Road as both intersections operate on a single controller.
- Gary Goeschel requested a summary of Level of Service associated with the signal improvement and roundabout alternatives at the East Pattagansett Road intersection.
- Alex Klose suggested that the proposed pocket parking area south of Hope Street should be reviewed. It may be preferable for users of the existing on-street spaces to utilize adjacent off-street lots due to sight distance concerns. Existing parking may be in conflict with State regulations and local zoning due to proximity to the crosswalk. This should be discussed with Bill Mulholland.
- Gary Goeschel noted that a crosswalk on the Hope Street leg of the intersection could be beneficial.
- The committee suggested that landscaping improvements be considered between Smith Street and Route 156.
- The Town has survey info at the East Pattagansett Road intersection. Alex Klose will provide it to BETA.

II. Access Management Plan

- BETA has developed a draft access management plan to improve access to commercial and institutional properties along the corridor. The draft access management plan will be shared at the next Advisory Committee meeting due to time constraints.

III. Conceptual Designs

- BETA will prepare conceptual designs and renderings for select locations. The following locations were agreed upon:
 - South end of Gorton Pond – Timber boardwalk alternative
 - South end of Gorton Pond – Concrete sidewalk alternative
 - Route 161 at East Pattagansett Road – Roundabout alternative (pending input from CTDOT's roundabout group)
 - U.S. Route 1 to Frontage Road – Sidepath and bus pull outs
 - Smith Street to Route 156 – Bike lanes

IV. Public Information Meeting #2

- Public information meeting #2 planned for late April/early May

V. Next Advisory Committee Meeting

- The next advisory committee meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, February 28th at 2:00 PM.