

# Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106

## **Route 195 Advisory Committee Meeting** *Hicks Memorial Municipal Center – Community Room*

**June 23, 2008**

**7:00 PM**

### **Committee Members**

Marilee Beebe-Kostrun  
Fred Daniels  
Steve Werbner  
Kathy Bach  
Barbara Cook  
Harvey Gilbert  
Steve Beeching

### **Organization**

Alternate, Tolland Planning & Zoning Commission  
Tolland Town Council - Chair  
Tolland Town Manager  
Former Town Council Member  
Tolland Historic District Commission  
Tolland Town Council  
Resident (Town Green) & Business Owner

### **Others**

Dave Smith  
Grayson Wright  
Jeffrey Hunter  
MaryAnn Delaney Tuttle

Tolland Town Engineer  
ConnDOT  
ConnDOT  
Tolland Town Council

### **Project Team**

Tom Maziarz  
Jennifer Carrier  
Pramod Pandey  
Steve O'Neill  
Ryan Malloy

CRCOG  
CRCOG  
CRCOG  
VHB  
VHB

### **Public Attendees**

Rod Hurtuk  
Ernie Mendenhal  
Marjorie Hurtuk  
Tonja Kelly  
Jon Gould  
Margie Gould  
Heather Rickard-Gilbert  
Linda Calabrese  
Tom Calabrese  
Steve Beeciainer

Tolland Green Historic District Commission  
Tolland Congregational Church  
Resident  
Resident  
Tolland Green Historic District Commission  
Resident  
Resident (partial attendance)  
Resident  
Resident  
Resident

**Meeting Purpose:** Route 195 Corridor Study – Regular Meeting of the Advisory Committee to discuss roundabout design considerations and concept refinement.

### **1. Adoption of Minutes:**

Marilee Beebe-Kostrun, filling in as Committee Chairman in Kevin Bouley's absence, opened the meeting and called for adoption of the March 13, 2008 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Fred

Daniels, seconded by Harvey Gilbert, to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

## **2. Welcome, Progress Update, April 24 Workshop Debriefing:**

Marilee Beebe-Kostrun reminded the committee that Tom Maziarz, Director of Transportation Planning at CRCOG, would be taking over as Project Manager for the corridor study because of a number of work responsibilities Jennifer Carrier currently has. Marilee extended a thank you to Jennifer for her involvement in the study to date. Jennifer then summarized the activities completed since the last Advisory Committee meeting, held in March. The activities included:

- Holding a workshop to discuss Village Center conceptual alternatives on April 24, 2008 and developing an input matrix to be considered as the alternatives analysis part of the study advances
- Continuing the traffic analysis section of the study for all options
- Refining and evaluating roundabout options in more detail
- Developing an on-line design tool library of information
- Meeting with the State Historic Commission to understand what conceptual improvements may be feasible given the historic status of the Tolland Green
- Meeting with town staff and ConnDOT staff regarding roundabout concepts and design considerations

## **3. Public Comment:**

Marilee Beebe-Kostrun asked for public comment also indicating that the public would get an opportunity to comment after the presentations were made. A member of the public pointed out a correction in the 4/24/08 meeting summary noting that the input matrix should reference 'Route 74' not Route 195 under group 4, column 1. Another member of the public asked for clarification regarding comments heard when meeting with the State Historic Commission. Tom Maziarz answered the question, noting that the State Historic Commission felt a roundabout concept is worth pursuing further and as progress is made on the study we will continue to seek their input.

## **4. Overview of Traffic Performance Measures**

Tom Maziarz reminded the committee that preserving the character of the green is paramount. This study is the Town's study as opposed to CRCOG's study, and reaching consensus on the best solution for the town green is the goal. Tom reviewed with the Committee the purpose of the meeting, which is to review village center roundabout options. However, he stated that other options are still under review and will be discussed further in later meetings.

Traffic intersection operations for the years 2007 and 2030 for various alternatives were also presented for the Route 74/Route 195 intersection and the Route 74 / Old Stafford Road intersection. Comments from the Committee included inquiries about circulating traffic around the green as opposed to through it and about making Route 195 a "T" intersection with Route 74 at a signalized intersection instead of a "T" configuration of Route 74 westbound into Route 195 and Route 74 eastbound. Both of these options can remain as future alternatives to consider.

## **5. Roundabout Design Consideration Presentation**

Tom Maziarz gave a comprehensive presentation on roundabout design considerations. He reviewed the primary design goals: to accommodate the volume of traffic on the roadway, to accommodate large vehicles such as trucks and school buses as well as to reduce speeds entering the roundabout. Examples of existing roundabouts were presented as well as roundabout design components such as diameter, truck apron, center island and diverter islands.

## **6. Traffic Considerations and Concept Refinement Presentation**

Steve O'Neill reviewed roundabout concepts for consideration at the intersections of Route 195 / Route 74 and Route 74 / Old Stafford Road. Concepts that combine the two roundabout concepts were also discussed. Options could include combining the roundabouts by connecting them with landscaped median or not.

## **7. Concept Discussion by Advisory Committee (with comments from public as well)**

Comments heard after the presentations are summarized below:

- A public attendee asked if green space would be lost if a roundabout was constructed. The Project Team answered that ultimately you gain more green space. Clarification was also given regarding green space. In typical traffic calming projects "green space" refers to new plantings or landscaping which can be included in future concepts however "green space" in these discussions refers to the total amount of Village Center Green area that may be lost and/or gained.
- A Committee member commented that a "T" intersection provides the most green space and the Committee may wish to consider a "T" intersection in one location and a roundabout in another.
- A public attendee referred to the Village Green as a "community front lawn" and does not feel a roundabout would enhance the useable green.
- A Committee member asked that traffic calming be considered prior to Old Stafford Road.
- A public attendee asked if rumble strips and/ or advance signing alerting motorists that they are entering the village center be installed. The project team commented that many times rumble strips are installed and immediately removed because of the noise and resident complaints. Neck downs, or a narrowing of the roadway in advance of the Village Center may work.
- A public attendee commented that the center roundabout as illustrated does not consider the Church parking lot. The project team commented that the alternatives are conceptual and not all driveway items could be resolved at this time but it would be taken into consideration.
- Another public attendee commented that the northern roundabout falls in the middle of the residential area. However some felt that a northern roundabout would give residents more front yard space due to the realignment of the roadway to provide proper deflection.
- Public attendees commented that they would like to see a traffic diversion alternative, circulating Route 195 traffic around the Green. A Committee member felt that if a bypass option was preferred it should be identified quickly because of its complicated and expensive undertaking.
- A public attendee commented that they feel roundabouts are the best solution and that the Green needs help. They would like to slow down traffic in the area.
- A Committee member questioned what the improvements would do to property values. Tom Maziarz commented that this is a unique situation and it is difficult to answer. A public attendee felt that because traffic would be slowed down it would only make properties more desirable. Steve O'Neill commented that the improvements would enhance the beauty of the town center so it may improve property values but he would look to see if there is any published information available.
- A Committee member commented that they prefer a roundabout at the intersection of Route 74 and Old Stafford Road and a "T" intersection at Route 195 and Route 74 however they would like to see more concepts. Another Committee member felt a "T" intersection at Route 195 and Route 74 would not be the best alternative because of the possibility of 2 lanes southbound to accommodate left turns.

**8. Next Steps:**

The Project Team will work on providing more information on alternatives at the next meeting. Diversion alternatives will be discussed as well as traffic calming treatments and their effectiveness. The Committee would also like to see a revised Route 195 project schedule.

The next meeting will be scheduled in the early fall.

**9. Other Business**

There was no other business

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.