

## Route 195 Town Green Workshop Meeting Overview

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**Fire Training Center**  
**191 Merrow Road, Tolland, CT**  
**April 24, 2008; 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**



### Public Attendees – Residents

Bea White-Ramirez	Madge Hurtuk
Marc Marzialo	Margie Gould
Eugene Curylo	Heather Rickard-Gilbert
Judy Shaffer	Karen Kramer
Linda Calabrese	Madeline Regan
Maryann Tuttle	Richard Tazz
Rod Hurtuk	Skip Shaffer
Sue Errickson	Teri Gerry
Tom Calabrese	Tonja Kelly

### Committee Members

Kevin Bouley - Chairman	Steve Werbner - Tolland Town Manager
Kathy Bach - Former Town Council Member	Fred Daniels - Town Council
Barbara Cook - Historic District Commission	Harvey Gilbert - Town Council
Stephen Beeching - Resident & Business Owner	Marilee Beebe-Kostrun - Planning Commission Alternate

### Others

Linda Farmer - Tolland Town Planner	David Smith - Tolland DPW / Town Engineer
Grayson Wright - ConnDOT	Jeffery Hunter - ConnDOT

### Project Team

Jennifer Carrier – CRCOG	Emily Moos - CRCOG
Steve O’Neill – VHB	Ryan Malloy - VHB
Geoffrey Morrison-Logan – VHB	

**Meeting Purpose:** Town Green Workshop with residents to present and receive feedback on Route 195 existing conditions and potential future alternatives for the Village Center District

**Welcome & Introductions:** Jennifer Carrier welcomed participants to the Village Center Workshop and gave a brief overview of the corridor study and workshop agenda. Ms. Carrier let the public know that this is very much a community driven planning study and that we are looking for the public’s comments and suggestions for Village Center improvements.

**Presentation:** Steve O’Neill gave a presentation summarizing existing conditions in the area of the Village Center, explaining transportation engineering and traffic calming principles and showing potential alternatives for improvements to the Village Center. Workshop participants asked clarification questions and made preliminary observations. A few items that were raised included: creating a gateway prior to the intersection of Route 74 and Tolland Green; truck traffic maneuvers through roundabouts; and access to private driveways that may fall within a roundabout.

**Brainstorming Breakout Session:** The project team assigned attendees to working groups in an effort to discuss presentation material and begin identifying conceptual improvements. Groups were given a plan sheet and markers

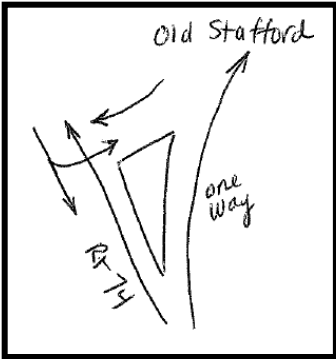
to illustrate their suggested improvement alternatives. Advisory Committee members distributed themselves among the groups to participate / listen in on the group discussions.

**Report Back Session:** Each group nominated a spokesperson to present their conceptual plan and comments heard during the breakout session. The areas were broken into four focus areas from which each group reported. Focus areas are:

- Focus Area 1: Route 74 at Tolland Green
- Focus Area 2: Route 195 at Route 74
- Focus Area 3: Route 195 at Old Post Road
- Focus Area 4: Route 195 at Cider Mill Road

The following is a summary of the comments heard from each group:

Group	Focus Area				
	1	2	3	4	Misc
1	<p>A roundabout is the best alternative in this focus area</p> <p>Concerns with driveways in this location and incorporation into roundabout</p> <p>Pedestrian walkways should be plentiful in the Town Green area</p>	<p>Group consensus is for a T-intersection at this location</p> <p>Striped parking not necessary on carriage road, but good addition on Route 195</p>	<p>General intersection improvements are good if they can be spiffy or consider removal of traffic light</p> <p>Perhaps a roundabout could be introduced here in a later phase of the corridor improvement process</p> <p>Group likes the extension of sidewalks to I-84 but prefers it on one side of roadway</p>	-	<p>Group would like to calm vehicular noise within Village Center</p> <p>Textured crosswalks are favorable</p> <p>There should be more destinations on the Town Green for people to visit instead of just pass through</p>
2	<p>Group favors the T-intersection with modifications</p> <p>Prefers implementing traffic calming devices north of the intersection – prior to “T”</p> <p>Would like a way to divert traffic on Old Stafford Road to Old Dunn Hill Road as headlight glare is a concern at this intersection</p>	<p>Group favors the roundabout at this location with modifications</p> <p>Does not want painted parking lines anywhere in the Town Green Area</p> <p>In roundabout plan, group wishes to extend the carriage road on Green to roundabout to hit Route 74 / Carriage Road</p>	<p>Wishes to enforce parking</p> <p>Likes bump out in front of town hall</p> <p>No bump out on Green side – move to the other side (Arts Center)</p> <p>Parking on residential side</p>	<p>Crosswalk shown goes to nowhere although area-wide textured crosswalks are favorable and necessary</p> <p>Carriage road should be two-way street</p> <p>Relocate the mid-green crosswalk in this focus area to in front of church where children cross</p> <p>Shared parking off-street preferable to striping</p>	-

Group	Focus Area				
	1	2	3	4	Misc
3	<p>Do-nothing approach is most favored however T would be recommended option if something had to be advanced</p>	<p>Group split: two favor do nothing, two favor T-Intersection, 2 favor roundabout</p> <p>Leave alone or possible minor improvements, a roundabout would only further split the green in ½ and a T intersection may at some point warrant a traffic light or create a speeding concern.</p>	<p>Do not widen road along Town Green</p> <p>Textured walkways are favorable</p> <p>Formalize the through-right turn northbound on Route 195</p>	<p>Works well in this plan</p> <p>Improve sight lines</p> <p>Prefer no traffic light</p> <p>Prefers a path to I84 area instead of a sidewalk</p>	<p>Favor textured crosswalks</p> <p>Favor curb extensions</p> <p>Desire cobblestone as traffic calming treatment around Town Green</p> <p>There are three important gateways to the Town Green – North, South and East – all should be considered in this study</p>
4	<p>Prefer T-intersection with modifications. Route 74 one way to Old Stafford “bypass.”</p>  <p>Headlights continue to be a concern</p>	<p>Roundabout is preferred in this focus area</p> <p>Leave grassy surface in front of Mutual Aid Building</p> <p>Concern about crosswalks</p>	<p>Okay on plan, but suggest minor changes</p> <p>Textured walkways and curb extensions are good</p>	<p>Pedestrian walkway on west side of Route 195 to gateway district is favored</p> <p>Keep sidewalk by Cider Mill in plan</p>	-

Group	Focus Area				
	1	2	3	4	Misc
5	<p>Traffic calming suggested before getting to Town Green</p> <p>Roundabout preferred in this focus area</p> <p>Concern with driveways at this intersection</p>	<p>T-Intersection preferred in this focus area</p> <p>Consideration should be given to a dedicated southbound left turn lane or encouraging motorists to take a left at Old Post Road not at Rt 74</p> <p>Feel a roundabout may isolate the jail</p>	<p>All sidewalk stones need to be lifted, reset and leveled. A parallel walk for bikers and strollers should also be constructed and a bike rack should be installed at town hall.</p> <p>More structure to parking on carriage road, but not Town Green side – keep parking on residential side</p> <p>Consider one-way traffic on Carriage Road southbound (from Rt 74 to Arts Center) and remove the bump out on the Town Green side and place on the Arts Center Side – a bump out on Town Green side will obstruct natural right turn lane – move bump out from west to east.</p> <p>Stripe to formalize parking in front of the Town Hall</p> <p>Textured crosswalks a great addition – place one in front of the church</p> <p>A bumpout in front of town hall may inhibit southbound right turn onto Old Post from Route 195.</p>	<p>T the Cider Mill intersection up more than shown</p> <p>Sidewalks to gateway area are a positive</p> <p>Put in textured traffic calming</p>	<p>Like crosswalks, good in front of Church</p>

***Summary of Other Comments:***

- Could traffic traveling westbound on Route 74 (in the vicinity of Woodsfield Drive) be directed to use Old Post Road traffic signal. In combination with this could southbound left turning traffic at a new Route 74 / Route 195 T-intersection be directed to use Old Post Road to gain access to Route 74 eastbound. Considerations – Old Post Road is a town road and there may be vertical sight distance concerns for southbound left turning traffic at Old Post and northbound through motorists.
- One workshop participant stated that the service or carriage road will always be needed to alleviate heavy traffic at peak periods
- A workshop participant wished to express thanks and commend the work of CRCOG, VHB, the Advisory Committee and town staff in bringing this workshop together. He mentioned that the project team listened to requests heard during the public open house and as a result we had a successful workshop.
- One participant mentioned that the study should take into account the affect that changes will have on real estate values in the Town Green area

***Next Steps:*** Jennifer Carrier explained the next steps of the project which are to compile the information gained at the workshop, begin analyzing future traffic conditions with regard to the Village Center and begin advancing future alternatives with the Advisory Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.