

# Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106

**Route 305 Advisory Committee Meeting  
Bloomfield Town Hall  
Tuesday, December 16, 2008  
7:00 PM**

**Final Endorsed by  
Committee on 4/15/2009**

## **Committee Members**

Thom Hooper  
Don Bercowetz  
Jon Colman  
Randy Lavigne  
John F. Sheehan  
Jonathan Thiesse

## **Organization**

Bloomfield P&Z  
Business Owner  
Bloomfield Town Council  
Business Owner  
Bloomfield Town Council  
Bloomfield Engineering

## **Others**

Melanie Zimyeski  
Grayson Wright

ConnDOT  
ConnDOT

## **Project Team**

Jennifer Carrier  
Lia Huang  
Rod Bascom  
Jeff Parker

CRCOG  
CRCOG  
CHA  
CHA

## **Public Attendees**

Fred Hesketh  
Bloomfield Journal

**Meeting Purpose:** Route 305 Corridor Study – Local Advisory Committee meeting to follow up on last meeting, discuss potential future improvement alternatives, and discuss the next public informational meeting.

## **1. Welcome and Progress Update**

Jennifer Carrier led introductions and updated the committee on progress since the October 22, 2008 Advisory Committee meeting. The following summarizes Ms. Carrier's update:

- A meeting was held with the ConnDOT rail division to discuss the rail crossing alternatives. CNZR was unavailable to meet in November or December
- Letters were distributed to area residences and business owners in the vicinity of Peters Road and Tunxis Avenue describing the study and offering to meet to discuss preliminary alternatives
- A meeting was held with ConnDOT planning, concept development and traffic divisions to discuss study findings and preliminary alternative concepts
- Concepts were further developed to address comments from the last Advisory Committee meeting
- Began preparation for the next public meeting
- Advisory Committee meeting was held in Windsor and a potential new interchange on the Interstate-91 was discussed

## **2. Adoption of Minutes (Meeting on October 22, 2008)**

A motion was made by Thom Hooper, seconded by Don Bercowetz, to accept the minutes of the October 22, 2008 meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Route 305 Potential Alternatives: On-Going Discussion**

#### *A. Long Term Improvement Options*

Jeff Parker led a discussion on the rail crossing alternatives under consideration. Grade-separated and at-grade concepts were further developed since the last Advisory Committee meeting. Additional bridge structures were included to reduce the environmental impact and located the alignment on the berm; these modifications resulted in a slightly steeper grade in a section of the grade-separated rail crossing option. The Committee discussed potential traffic movements, business operations, economic development, road classifications/cross-sections, and property impacts.

Related to the cross-section for a new roadway in the vicinity of Peters Road, the committee asked that a 60 foot right-of-way be considered as opposed to the 80 foot right-of-way illustrated. CROCOG will follow up with ConnDOT regarding ownership of the roadway and whether the right-of-way should be based on ConnDOT's guidelines. The Committee also asked that the roadway be shown as a two lane roadway, eliminating the two-way left turn lane that was illustrated. Related to the reconfigured curb cuts illustrated for Nationwide Moving and Storage, the project team should find out if the owner travels between the northern and southern properties and if it would help to better connect the properties.

Preliminary cost estimates for each alternative were presented and the Committee discussed funding potential for the implementation of these concepts. The overall plan may need to be constructed in sections as funding becomes available. It was noted that the rail crossing portion will need ConnDOT approval to advance.

#### *B. Short Term Improvement Options*

Jeff Parker reviewed several short term improvement concepts including alternatives for Old Iron Ore Road, East Newberry Road, and a narrow brook crossing. Pedestrian considerations at the intersection of Route 305 and Route 187 were also discussed. It was the decision of the committee not to advance with conceptual sidewalk alternatives along Route 305 between Route 187 and Old Iron Ore Road at this time. Related to crosswalks at the intersection, that could be discussed with state officials if there is a future need.

### **4. Public Informational Meeting**

Jennifer Carrier explained that the next newsletter is under development. This newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in early January.

The Committee discussed potential public meeting dates. February 5, 2008 was selected as the preferred date from 6:00-7:30 PM.

Engaging the public at this meeting is a top priority. Draft presentation boards for the public meeting were reviewed and discussed with the Committee. Committee members suggested edits to the boards. Any additional comments are welcome—please contact Jennifer Carrier.

### **6. Public Comments**

A member of the public wanted to ensure that the correct property lines were used. The member of the public also confirmed with the Committee that the grade-separated rail crossing option included a new connection to Highland Park Drive.

### **7. Next Steps**

Jennifer Carrier will discuss Route 305 extension road classification with ConnDOT.

A Steering Committee meeting will be held in early January 2009—potential dates will be sent soon.

The next newsletter will be mailed in early January 2009.

The next public meeting will be held in early February, preferably Thursday, February 5, 2008.

**8. Other Business** - No other business was brought to the attention of the Committee.

**9. Adjourn** - The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.