

Route 305 Bloomfield Public Open House Meeting Overview

*Bloomfield Senior Center
330 Park Avenue, Bloomfield, CT
April 9, 2008; 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM*

Public Attendees - Residents

Debby Berson
Jamie R. Gabriel
Joseph D. Wactowski
Marie Bendzan
Margaret Cunnane
J.P. Morris
Fred Hesketh – Bloomfield Journal

Public Attendees – Business Owner/Other

Gary Tong, Kaman
Scott Blackburn
Nick Lavieri, Kamatics Corp.
Dan Rosow

Committee Members

Jonathan Thiesse
Al LeFebvre
Barry Berson
Gail O'Keefe
Deborah Davis
Jon Colman
Thom Hooper

Others

Katie Driscoll - ConnDOT
James Morrin – ConnDOT
David Gofstein – Town of Bloomfield

Project Team

Jennifer Carrier – CRCOG
Dave Sousa- CHA
Jeff Parker – CHA

Emily Moos - CRCOG
Rod Bascom – CHA



Meeting Purpose: First Public Open House to present Route 305 existing conditions findings and receive feedback.

Welcome & Introductions: Attendees had an opportunity to circulate around the room, reviewing existing conditions boards and demonstrations while talking with study team and advisory committee members, prior to the meeting presentation at 6:30PM.

Jennifer Carrier gave an overview of the corridor study process.

Existing Conditions Presentation: Rod Bascom presented the existing transportation conditions on the Route 305 Corridor. Dave Sousa presented existing conditions of land use and zoning in the corridor. Jeff Parker spoke about the goals and objectives of the study, summarizing the prioritization exercise conducted in the first half hour of the open house and also gave a summary of the issues and concerns noted by the public during the first half hour of the open house. The following is a description of the key goals, issues and concerns:

Goals & Objectives Prioritization Exercise Results:

Open house attendees were each given three green dots and directed to place them on board which identified five of the six corridor study goals: Maintaining and Improving Safety, Preserving and Enhancing Mobility, Coordinating Transportation and Land Use, Preserving and Enhancing Corridor Character and Aesthetics, and Evaluating the Feasibility of a Westerly Extension of Route 305 to Route 189 in Bloomfield. The sixth goal, Developing Comprehensive and Coordinated Recommendations, was assumed to be a priority of all. The following identifies how residents voted:

#1 Safety

#2 Extension of Route 305

#3 Land Use

#4 Mobility

#5 Character Aesthetics

Issues & Concerns Board – Key Comments:

Open house attendees were asked to identify any issues or concerns on sticky notes and affix them to an overall aerial of the corridor. The following summaries comments received:

- What impact will a widening of West Dudley Town Road have on the operations of traffic?
- There is some confusion over access points for Old Iron Ore Road where it meets RT 305. Exiting from this road onto RT 305 is difficult as there are few gaps in traffic and this is an un-signalized intersection.
- There are congestion and operational issues at Dunfey Lane and Mountain Road

Next Steps: Jennifer Carrier explained the next steps of the project which are to compile the information gained at the public meeting, begin analyzing future traffic conditions and developing future conceptual alternatives with the Advisory Committee.

Public Comments: The following summarizes comments heard during the meeting.

One resident asked what the time frame was for the entire improvement project. Jennifer Carrier stated that the planning study is expected to wrap up early next year however seeing something constructed is still years away. The study will lay the groundwork for recommendations however; design plans would need to be advanced by the town or a “champion”. Funding would also need to be secured. Rod Bascom made the point that this study is a critical step in the process toward getting funding and seeing construction along Route 305, so getting to this step is a major milestone for the Town.

John Sheehan took a moment to express the importance of the extension of Route 305 for residents along Woodland Avenue. He stated that the extension would relieve and mitigate the effects of heavy traffic along Woodland Avenue.

Another resident pointed out that at the beginning of the curve in the road at Kaman Aerospace, many accidents take place and that this is definitely a non-standard curve. The resident wondered whether a traffic signal would be a positive or a negative at this location. Rod Bascom stated that traffic signals are a hazard if not needed. There are warrants that need to be met for traffic signals – accidents are part of those warrants. Jennifer Carrier stated that this curved roadway segment may be a short-term, low-cost improvement.

Al Lefebvre asked whether the town is alone to find funding once the corridor study is over and whether the Advisory Committee should work thru the Town Council to approach the DOT. Jennifer Carrier stated that once a plan is endorsed by both the Town of Windsor and the Town of Bloomfield the towns should collectively look and apply for funding. CRCOG manages the STP-Urban program which allows municipalities to competitively apply for federal monies. Every 2-3 years CRCOG goes through the project solicitation process and CRCOG can provide guidance to the Town during the application process. Rod Bascom reiterated that support at all levels is critical to getting the project done.

The meeting concluded at 7:30 PM however some members of the public continued to meet and talk with project team members.