

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106

Endorsed by
Committee
1/21/2009

Route 305 Steering Committee Meeting Windsor Town Hall Friday, March 7, 2008 2:00 PM

Committee Member

Michael O'Brien
Peter Souza
Eric Barz
Lauren Good
Jon Colman
Thom Hooper
Al LeFebvre
Jennifer Carrier
Jeff Parker

Organization

Windsor Planning & Zoning
Town of Windsor Town Manager
Town of Windsor Town Planner
Town of Windsor Assistant Town Planner
Chairman – Bloomfield Route 305 AC
Town of Bloomfield Town Planner
Bloomfield Advisory Committee Member
CROCOG
CHA

Meeting Purpose: First Steering Committee meeting to discuss overall corridor and preliminary corridor visions and goals.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Advisory Committee members from each town introduced themselves.

2. Existing Conditions Findings – Transportation (Critical Corridor Issues)

Jennifer Carrier of CROCOG gave an overview presentation encompassing the entire corridor. The presentation touched upon the geometric issues, traffic issues, safety issues, and pedestrian / bike facilities. The following briefly summarizes the presentation and discussion.

- The corridor has a few narrow sections (less than 30 feet which was assumed to be standard – accommodating 2-11' lanes and 2-4' shoulders). In Bloomfield there are two locations that have non-standard curve radii. In Windsor the existing taper in the westbound direction from 2 lanes to 1 is below desirable.
- Related to traffic, a lot of traffic is coming from or going to the I91 ramps, finding their way to Addison Road and Marshall Phelps. With this traffic pattern there are poor operations and vehicle queues experienced at some intersections and delays getting out of side streets.
- Of all corridor accidents, 78% occurred in Windsor. The collisions were primarily rear-end (46%) followed by turning / intersecting path collisions (16%). There was one fatality in Windsor which involved a pedestrian.
- There are no crosswalks or pedestrian signal heads along Route 305 but sidewalks do exist at limited locations in Windsor. There are no sidewalks in Bloomfield.
- There are no dedicated bicycling lanes within the corridor and the shoulders are narrow in some instances which does not support safe bicycle travel (4' min is preferred).
- Bypass along the corridor is in some instances difficult. Route 305 left-turning traffic waiting to take a turn, sometimes blocks the through traffic movement.

3. Build Out Analysis

Jeff Parker of CHA gave an update on the build-out analysis for each town. In general, the Town of Bloomfield is expected to have an approximate net buildable area of 1,000 acres which could yield approximately 38,000 vehicles

per day to the general area. The Town of Windsor is expected to have an approximate new buildable area of approximately 1,490 acres which could yield approximately 47,500 vehicles per day to the general area.

Windsor asked if Bloomfield should modify their assumptions to reduce their general office land use percentage (currently at 37%). In response, the town is taking current trends and projecting them to develop recommendations for future land use.

Eric Barz questioned the net buildable area tributary to Route 305 (approximately 1,490 acres), they feel this overestimates what is available. Subsequent conversations indicate that the net area includes some areas that may have been developed since the fall of 2007. Our existing traffic counts do not account for these developments and, in an effort to model it accurately, it is showing up as available land in the model.

4. Preliminary Discussion of Corridor Vision (Revisiting Goals and Objectives)

Jennifer Carrier reviewed the preliminary goals and objectives, focusing on the two that are specific to the towns: Understand the feasibility of a westerly extension of Route 305 to Route 189; Preserve and enhance corridor character and aesthetics. Jennifer also highlighted the goal of developing comprehensive and coordinated recommendations along the corridor. The committee talked through these goals, understanding each town's desires and context.

Related to the potential extension of Route 305 westerly, Bloomfield indicated that there are wetlands that would need to be taken into consideration and two homes may be impacted.

It was noted that in many cases the buildings are set-back from the roadway. One Steering Committee member questioned the right-of-way (ROW) width on Day Hill Road and inquired about the width of the center island. It was estimated that the ROW is 100 feet and the medians are between 12 and 16 feet wide.

Jennifer reviewed landscape units with the Steering Committee. There were four landscape units found within the corridor: Single-Family Residential; Rural or Undeveloped; Commercial / Industrial and Corporate Gateway. In Windsor, all four were defined. In Bloomfield, three landscape units were defined. As the project moves forward it's important to note that different treatments can be used within the varying landscape units.

The Committee brainstormed the concept of introducing a center median along Route 305 at select locations. A comment was made that residents currently have a difficult time getting out of their driveways and it's only going to get worse. The discussion also revealed that if an island was introduced at select locations, some residents may have problems accessing their driveways from a particular location. It was expressed that the committee would like to keep the roadway from looking like a highway. A comment was also made that we consider a minimum 2 lane roadway with turn lanes or a maximum 4 lane roadway with a median and no in-between.

Related to pedestrians, one thought that came up was providing a trail on one side of the roadway.

The concept of a back-to-back left turn lane at select locations came up. This lane allows individuals wishing to access properties on either side of the roadway, to enter a middle lane to safely wait to complete the left-turn maneuver.

5. Other

Jennifer Carrier mentioned that the Public Open Houses were scheduled in early April. It was suggested that we work with the Towns and Steve Good, from the Hartford Courant, to notice the meeting.

6. Public Comments

No one from the public was present.

7. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at approximately 3:30 PM.