

# Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106

Final Endorsed by  
Committee 4/16/2009

**Route 305 Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Council Chambers, Windsor Town Hall**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2009**  
**4:00 PM**

## Committee Members

Tom Lenehan  
Michael O'Brien  
Jim Martin  
Eric Barz

## Organization

Town of Windsor Town Engineer  
Windsor Planning & Zoning  
Windsor Economic Development  
Town of Windsor Town Planner

## Others

Grayson Wright  
Melanie Zimyeski  
James Morrin

ConnDOT – Planning  
ConnDOT – Planning  
ConnDOT – Planning

## Project Team

Jennifer Carrier  
Lia Huang  
Jeff Parker  
Casey Hardin

CRCOG  
CRCOG  
CHA  
CHA

## Public Attendees

Allen Viner  
Susan Viner

Resident  
Resident

**Meeting Purpose:** Route 305 Corridor Study – Local Advisory Committee meeting to discuss interstate infrastructure investment versus widening Route 305 and to discuss the upcoming public open house.

## 1. Welcome and Progress Update

Jennifer Carrier led introductions and updated the Committee on progress since the December 3, 2008 Advisory Committee meeting. The following summarizes Ms. Carrier's update:

- A meeting was held with the ConnDOT Planning officials to discuss the I-91 interchange concepts.
- A Bloomfield Advisory Committee meeting was held to discuss potential future improvement alternatives and to discuss the upcoming public informational meeting.
- The draft newsletter #2 was composed
- Concepts for the public meeting boards were developed

## 2. Adoption of Minutes (Meeting December 3, 2008)

Jim Martin asked if there were any changes to the December 3, 2008 meeting minutes and none were identified. A motion was made by Mike O'Brien, seconded by Tom Lenehan, to accept the minutes of the December 3, 2008 meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously

## 3. Future Alternatives Discussion

Jeff Parker led a discussion on long term improvement alternatives. The following summarizes the discussion:

- A new interchange in the vicinity of Pigeon Hill Road is expected to cost three times the expense of widening Route 305 and will have significantly more wetlands impacts. The expected 4 acres of wetland impacts will trigger environmental documentation and wetland mitigation.
- A new interchange would introduce merging concerns and would be a difficult alternative to advance and construct.

- The cost of widening Route 305 on the comparative data chart includes widening the stretch between Mountain Road and Marshall Phelps Road.
- A planned residential development (south of Pigeon Hill Road, east of I-91) is expected to Pigeon Hill Road as a primary access point and Mack Street as a limited/emergency use access point. A new interchange may result in an increased use of the Mack Street and Route 305.
- The comparative data related to widening Route 305 maintains the current roadway centerline and reflects impacts on both sides of the road; at the committee's request, widening on one side of Route 305 will also be evaluated.
- The speed limit on Route 305 is currently 35 miles per hour. After widening, the speed limit will likely remain the same, but adding a landscaped median will result in a perceived narrowing of the lanes which will slow vehicles down. Additionally, other smaller improvements in the corridor like the potential realignment of Sheffield Drive and Brewster Road and/or colored/textured pavement may also help reduce speeding on Route 305.
- Median breaks should be considered in more detail as alternatives are developed. The break locations should allow reasonable opportunity to make turns. Medians will not be placed in the vicinity of Addison Road. A median in the vicinity of Marshall Phelps should be considered. Jim Morrin added that too many breaks will lower the safety benefits of having a median.
- Lighting options for Route 305 should be considered.

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

The next newsletter will be forwarded to the printer on January 15 and distributed to residents, business owners and others next week. The public meeting is expected to be advertised on the Windsor public access channel, in the Hartford Courant, on posted flyers, at Town Hall, at the library, and in the Windsor Journal.

All committee members agreed that the public open house will aim to educate the public on all options that have been reviewed—presenting the advantages and disadvantages of each. The meeting will also allow the public to express their own ideas on how to improve the corridor.

#### **5. Public Comments**

Susan Viner applauded the committee on their work but is interested in solutions that can be implemented in the short term. Specifically, the area near Mountain Road is currently problematic when Route 305 traffic blocks motorists existing Mountain Road. In response, Jennifer Carrier stated that the signal timing will be reviewed for improvements. Susan Viner also suggested assigning a policeman to the area during the morning peak hours. Some individuals felt that the existing merge may be causing the backups. Jim Morrin suggested prioritizing improvements when developing the overall corridor implementation plan.

#### **6. Next Steps**

A Steering Committee meeting will be held January 21, 2009.

The next public meeting will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2009.

#### **7. Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

#### **8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.