

# Route 305 Windsor Public Open House Meeting Overview

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*Windsor Town Hall – Ludlow Room*  
*275 Broad Street, Windsor, CT*  
*January 29, 2009; 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM*

## **Public Attendees - Residents**

Katherine Rattan  
Richard Wasaul  
Elsie Wasaul  
Paul Berdonaro  
R.A. (writing not legible)  
Evan Forman  
Myrna Proctor  
Philip Austin  
Judith Austin  
Karen Methias  
Peter Devia  
Lauren Makowski  
Blaise Rogovich  
Karen James  
M. Laakso



## **Public Attendees – Business Owner/Other**

No Business Owners attended

## **Committee Members**

Eric Barz – Town Planner  
Tom Lenehan – Town Engineer  
Jim Martin – Economic Development  
Michael O'Brien – P&Z Commissioner

## **Others**

Grayson Wright – ConnDOT  
Melanie Zimyeski – ConnDOT  
Katherine Rattan – ConnDOT  
Jim Burke – Economic Development Director  
Karen Stewartson – CRCOG

## **Project Team**

Jennifer Carrier - CRCOG  
Dave Sousa - CHA  
Jeff Parker - CHA  
Rod Bascom - CHA  
Lia Huang – CRCOG  
Casey Hardin- CHA

**Meeting Purpose:** Second Public Open House to present Route 305 preliminary alternatives and receive feedback.

## **Welcome & Introductions**

Attendees had an opportunity to circulate around the room, reviewing preliminary alternative boards/demonstrations and engage in feedback activities while talking with study team and advisory committee members, prior to the meeting presentation at 6:30PM.

Eric Barz gave a brief word of welcome and Jennifer Carrier gave an overview of the corridor study.

## **Preliminary Alternatives Presentation**

Rod Bascom summarized the input received from the public in the first public meeting.

Jeff Parker reviewed potential localized improvements in Windsor.

Rod Bascom presented preliminary long term improvement alternatives.

Jennifer Carrier mentioned Bloomfield alternatives are available for review on one of the presentation boards if attendees are interested in reviewing these as well.

### ***Next Steps***

Jennifer Carrier explained the next steps of the project which are to hold a public meeting in Bloomfield next week, meet with the Town Councils and Planning and Zoning Commissions, fine tune alternatives based on input received, prepare a draft report, hold a final public meeting to present the draft report to the community, and issue a final study report.

### ***Public Comments***

The following summarizes comments heard during the meeting.

A resident living on the corner of Brewster Road and Route 305 stated that in the past (15) years her property has been hit (4) times by vehicles losing control on Route 305. She believes this is due to the downhill slope of Route 305 between Addison Road and Brewster Road. The resident asked if a signal or flashing lights could be installed to alert drivers to slow down. Rod Bascom mentioned that signals must be warranted to be installed and that the landscaped medians will slow vehicles down in the area.

Another resident felt that the recommendations for clearing up traffic in the area will make it more difficult for residents to exit their driveways. The resident was worried that the medians will block access and that the trees will inhibit sight lines. Additionally, the resident commented that the current backup of vehicles, when a vehicle is attempting to make a left turn, gives residents a break to exit their driveway and adding designated left turn lanes to allow vehicles to pass will remove this opportunity for residents. A few other residents expressed they also experience long delays in trying to exit their driveways or sidestreets. Rod Bascom clarified that the presented raised medians at Brewster Road and Sheffield Drive are very short and that the remainder of the section on the diagrams is suggested to be painted pavement, not a continuation of the raised median. Mr. Bascom continued that a balance does need to be reached in this corridor; traffic does need to be alleviated, but regular actions like a school bus will allow residents opportunities to exit their driveways.

One resident suggested changing the signal timing to allow residents more opportunity to exit their driveways.

A resident mentioned that many drivers run through the red light at Mountain Road which sometimes makes a right turn onto Route 305 from Brookview Road impossible.

A resident agreed that the merge near Brookview Road is an issue that needs to be addressed.

One resident felt that adding additional lanes to Route 305 will be necessary and that the small, localized improvements will not be enough to resolve the issues that Route 305 faces in the future. This same resident asked if there is a possibility to remove traffic from Route 305 as an option. Jennifer Carrier mentioned that the Advisory Committee and Project Team did consider numerous options, one of which was a new interchange near Pigeon Hill Road, but due to merging issues, wetland impacts, significantly higher cost, and a more involved process (since it is a change impacting an Interstate Highway), increasing capacity on Route 305 was the more feasible option.

A resident wondered if truck traffic could be diverted to Day Hill Road. Jennifer Carrier stated that ConnDOT and the Town of Windsor are currently evaluating improvements to the Day Hill Road interchange and if implemented trucks may elect to use that interchange more. Ms. Carrier added that Route 305 is also serving the town of Bloomfield and establishments along Route 187 and completely diverting truck traffic would not be feasible. Eric Barz mentioned that Windsor is currently working on the design of a transit oriented village in the Day Hill Road area. One goal of this development is to alleviate some of the expected traffic increase on Route 305. The village itself would aim to reduce vehicular trips by allowing mixed use type of development and encouraging transit.

One resident felt that the channelized right turn lanes suggested on Marshall Phelps Road will make it easier for trucks to use Route 305. Jennifer Carrier answered that the channelized right turn lanes remove these turning movement (both truck and vehicular) from the signal control and that these features were introduced to create a gateway opportunities for the area.

Another resident suggested the addition of speed bumps on Route 305 to slow vehicles down. Rod Bascom stated such an installation would not be approved by the State.

A resident mentioned that the signal timing at the intersection at Marshall Phelps Road needs to be reviewed. In the evening the southbound left turn currently experiences backups and allows only a few vehicles to clear the signal.

A resident asked if Route 305 would be widened and enhanced when funding becomes available or if the State will reassess the traffic growth prior to implementation. Rod Bascom mentioned that widening Route 305 is not currently required and that we're planning for the future. When safety and mobility of the roadway begin to deteriorate the improvements would need to be evaluated in more detail by ConnDOT and funding would need to be obtained. At that time the state would review the traffic conditions in the area prior to design advancement.

A resident felt that landscaping a wider Route 305 does not change the fact that the residents live on a four-lane highway, which is undesirable.

The meeting concluded at 7:40 PM however some members of the public continued to meet and talk with the Advisory Committee members and Project Team members.