

Bolton Public Ways and Safety Committee
Meeting: 4/14/2021

Attendees: Mary Ciummo, Holly Lauer, Mike Keller

Meeting called to order at 7:10

Minutes from Feb 24 voted and approved

We reviewed the meeting with Don Lowe, and noticed that the preferred truck route signs have been placed on Rt. 117.

On the reflective strips, Randy from DPW is checking budget to order the strips from an approved vendor.

Mass Works project

The committee reviewed and discussed the two options for the Forbush Mill, Green Rd, and Main St. intersection. If they aren't going to improve the intersection going towards a "T" intersection, then a rotary is the way to go for the Green rd/Forbush mill/Main st. interchange.

The traffic light option is another way to regulate the traffic patterns at this intersection. Will there be a speed reduction approaching this intersection? Will there be wider paved shoulders? Bike lanes are designated making the area wider. There are no bike lanes for Forbush and Green roads due to having to widen both shoulders on the streets. That is not in the design to do this on the plans for putting lights at the intersection. There is concern for pedestrians and red lights at the intersection with cars going through the lights.

The rotary option: What will the effect be on the parking lot at the Classic Pizza? The plan does not show a bike lane. The crosswalks do not have crossing lights. A pedestrian refuge island is noted and makes people have to cross one lane of traffic at a time. That is a big concern with pedestrians and rotaries. Is the island going to be raised or is it just going to be painted on the roadway? The pedestrians crossing one lane of traffic at a time is considered safer because the pedestrian island will provide a safe refuge before crossing the next lane of traffic. There is a brick area graded around the center will be used for relief for trucks at the rotary. There are studies that rotaries move traffic better than having traffic lights. The committee is leaning towards the decision to put in a rotary instead of lights. Crashes at rotaries are not as serious as crashes at intersections with traffic lights. 76% reduction in injury crashes, 40% reduction in pedestrian crashes. Fewer delays, less pollution because you are not idling at the intersection and a rotary is cheaper to maintain than having lights at the intersection. Illuminating the intersection at night will be a concern to look at on the plans. With the way the rotary works it looks like there might be a problem going east on 117 and having to turn, from the rotary, onto Green rd. having to make a 90 degree turn. Rotaries take in more modes of traffic better than having lights. The sidewalks are not as defined on the plans and Green rd. sidewalk should go to the school driveway on Green rd.

Apartment complexes at Manor apartments and behind Country Cupboard

The apartment complex behind Country Cupboard is a four story and the Fire department only has a ladder that reaches three stories. Their response was that there will be a ladder on the outside of the complex that the fire department can use if they have to go to the fourth floor. The complex behind the office park reduced the plans from four stories to three.

Condyne, the owners of the Bolton Office Park: When Clinton Savings bank was being built, the office park was going to put in an assisted living facility, so out of concern of the people living at the Manor sidewalks were requested going to Main st and connected to a walk in front of the lacrosse field. Then we asked for funding to the sidewalk fund. The assisted living facility was not built so the sidewalk issues went away. We need sidewalk connections with the new construction. Connections between the manor and the new buildings need to link up with the pedestrian walkways in the development. Parking may be an issue with the people using the senior center and the manor when they come to plow in the winter time. Parcel lockers should be available to the residents. These are container lockers for delivery people to use instead of going to doors within the complex. We will ask for this concept for the development. Traffic study needs to be done with the amount of traffic that this will put on 117.

Horse signs

Presentation nicely done to install 45 horse signs but there are too many in this project. Horse traffic has decreased but bicyclists and pedestrian traffic has increased. When Complete Streets policy was created, it includes horseback riders and users of the road. When the prioritization plan was created there was no mention for accommodations for horse riders. Prioritized points in the plan there are 6 mentions of share the road requests. A share the road sign would be recommended on these streets. No horse rider points were made in the plan. Looking in the equestrian guide book, signs were for trail heads meeting roadways. It does say that engineers would have to do a study if signs were needed. Too many signs create clutter on the landscape, Harvard does not have any signs for horses. DPW mentioned too many signs contribute to sign pollution, and people will disregard the signs. The town of Orange has signs that were paid for by a citizen. In this presentation, the bridges on conservation land were too narrow. That seems to be the bigger problem because people would have to go out of the property, on the street, and then go back on the property to circumvent the bridges. We don't know where to go with this issue. The selectmen will have to make a decision on this issue. Too many signs and the bridges seem to be the issue and maybe the streets recommended for share the road signs can include horses. We recommend maybe putting signs by trail heads.

Leslie Breeze

We as a committee would like to thank Leslie for her dedication and work with the town and this committee. Her many years, from the beginning of this committee to

now, has been invaluable for her input and experience for making this town safe for our citizens.

Committee is looking for people with interest in town safety. We want people that have concerns about town safety. Agreed an ad would be best to find people.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:25,. Recorded minutes by Michael Keller.