

January 27, 2009

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
BUREAU OF HIGHWAY DESIGN**

**CONFERENCE REPORT**

**PROJECT:** PITTSFIELD  
X-A000(829)  
15622  
NH 28 / Leavitt Road Safety Improvements Study

**DATE OF CONFERENCE:** January 20, 2009

**LOCATION OF CONFERENCE:** Pittsfield Town Office

<b>ATTENDED BY:</b> <u>NHDOT</u>	<u>Others</u>
C. Green	Pittsfield Selectmen
T. Zanes	Town Administrator
	Police Chief
	Fire Chief
	Approximately 14 residents

**SUBJECT:** Project Review with Selectmen

**NOTES ON CONFERENCE:**

C. Green noted the Town had expressed interest in signaling the intersection of NH 28 and Leavitt Road. He explained that the current Federal highway funding law, known by its acronym of SAFETEA-LU, established the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) to address the number of fatalities and serious injuries occurring on the nation's highways. New Hampshire receives \$5.5 million per year in HSIP funding to implement modest safety improvements in locations where crash data indicates safety deficiencies. The FHWA requires each state to compile an annual "5% Report" identifying the state's most severe safety needs. The NHDOT developed its "5% Report" and identified locations (both intersections and road segments) with the highest number or rate of crashes. This location is one of 30 that have been identified from the 5% Report for further study.

C. Green asked the Selectmen and attendees to discuss their observations of problems and issues regarding the safety deficiencies. The following are their observations of the intersection's deficiencies:

- Police Chief R. Wharem noted that a significant number of accidents involved vehicles on Leavitt Road from town (westbound) attempting to cross or turn onto NH 28. In particular, right-turning traffic on NH 28 obscures following thru traffic. Vehicles attempting to enter NH 28 from Leavitt Road are then struck by the northbound thru traffic.

- Chief Wharem, Fire Chief G. Johnson, and Town Administrator P. Skowron will coordinate to provide accident data including a descriptive summary, or gist, and injury information for each incident.
- Selectman E. Vien reported that traffic frequently backs up on Leavitt Road and drivers become very impatient. Several residents concurred with his observation and noted that the problem is most notable during periods of high commuter traffic on NH 28.
- Selectman L. Konopka stated that it is difficult to judge the speed of oncoming vehicles on NH 28 when selecting a safe gap to enter from Leavitt Road.
- Pat Nickerson noted that there are no crosswalks at the intersection today.

The discussion then turned to possible improvements to the intersection. Many of the attendees felt the intersection should be signalized. An overwhelming response from the town residents opposed any improvement that includes a roundabout.

Chief Wharem expressed concern for a signal configuration similar to the intersection of NH 28 and NH 107. Specifically, left turns from NH 107 have a permitted phase must yield to opposing thru traffic on NH 107. He cited a significant number of accidents at that intersection.

Chief Johnson requested that any proposed signals include Opticom detection. Currently the Pittsfield ambulance is equipped with an emitter, and he noted other towns would benefit when transporting patients to Concord.

Kathy Corliss suggested that lane separation of Leavitt Road could help reduce confusion.

P. Skowron asked for an explanation of the project development process. C. Green explained that the Department is currently gathering topographic survey. Traffic volumes, accident data, and public comments will be used to develop an improvement concept, which will be presented at a spring public informational meeting. He noted that when the project could be advertised depended on the issues (i.e. environmental impacts, easements, permits, etc.) that could come up during the design and how easy/difficult it would be to address those issues. If there were no major issues and if the issues that did occur were quickly resolved, potentially a project could be advertised in 2009. The project would be funded with federal and state funds only, unless there were Town owned utilities that were impacted, requiring Town funds.

The town has plans for the sewer locations in the area. The water lines are owned by Pennichuck Water Works.

L. Konopka summarized the meeting comments noting that the town will provide the Department with accident data, and requested the Department consider left-turn lanes on NH 28, proper cross walks, and implementation of an Opticom system.

K. Corliss asked if there is a deadline for available funds. C. Green responded that the funds are required to be utilized within three years of receipt, and the Department is working to implement the solutions in a timely manner.

Submitted by:

/S/ ON FILE

Trent C. Zanes, P.E.  
Preliminary Design

TCZ/tcz

Noted By: C. Green

cc: W. Cass  
C. Green  
M. Dugas  
W. Lambert  
P. Mitchell

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