

Richmond Road, North Road, and Texas Hill Road Intersection Scoping Study

Local Concerns Meeting
Tuesday, January 21, 2020
Hinesburg Town Offices

Attendees

Members of the public who signed in:

Gill Coates
Kim Coates
Kevin McDonald
John Lyman
Anne Buecue
Barbara Forever
Merrilly Lovell
Steve Knowlden
Patty Knowlden
Trish Whitney
Mike Whitney
Maggie Gordon
Paul Young
Bob Stahl

Project Team

Alex Weinhagen, Town of Hinesburg
Jason Charest, CCRPC
Marshall Distel, CCRPC
Pam Brangan, CCRPC
Dayton Crites, D&K
Julia Ursaki, D&K

Discussion Notes

Despite different suggestions and preferred alternatives on solutions, there was general agreement in the audience that there are major problems with the intersection, those being:

- Densely settled area w/ lots of activity (pedestrians, runners, road/mountain bikers, hikers, children, etc.)
- Confusing intersection geometry and traffic operations
- Driver behavior / speeds are unsafe

Suggested resolutions included:

- Do nothing, beyond put a police officer out there and hand out more tickets
- Remove the slip lane and put a 4-way intersection in place with improved geometry
- Remove the slip lane and add an all-way stop
- Improve vegetation management: remove or prune willow tree, remove more brush on the east side of Richmond Road to improve sight distance for Texas Hill Road
- Put in a roundabout

- Develop broad traffic calming solutions beyond just the intersection, extending to North and Richmond roads. Medians, speed bumps, fog lines, etc.
 - o Further discussion re: speed bumps/humps/tables: they can be very loud for nearby houses who have to hear cars running over them day in and day out
- Reduce the speed limit to 35 MPH on all approaches to this intersection, and/or move the 40 MPH speed limit sign on North Road further south, so that people don't "step on it" as they are leaving the intersection
- Include Mexican Topes ([link here](#) - the story tonight was a bit more rustic, including a donkey attached to a pole in the road)

Observations about local use included:

- Lots of mailboxes on roadway, lots of pedestrian activity
- Slip lane 'parking area' is used for cycling/mountain biking/hike/run parking, staging of electric utility vehicles, long term parking
- North Road is used as an informal "bypass" for traffic on Route 116 who don't want to go through the Hinesburg Village/traffic signals
- Many drivers don't stop at the stop signs
- Line of sight coming off Texas Hill Road is challenging
- Traffic volumes at this intersection have grown in recent years
- This is the most densely settled area in Hinesburg, yet there are no public facilities (i.e. a park) aside from the water tower on Piette Rd
- People tonight said that they know to go through slowly and look out for any errant vehicles; some have experienced near misses

Additional comments:

- Skunk Hollow Traffic Calming was a success (Jericho)
- The slip lane has existed as long as anyone can remember; it likely comes from paths laid out in the 1800s
- The kids in the area could use a skatepark, or something similar if the slip lane wasn't there
- Keeping parking in the slip lane area is important, as it's always in use

Next Steps

- The project team will develop several potential alternatives for improvements to this intersection
- These alternatives will be presented to the public at another public meeting, likely in March or April