

Alex Weinhagen

From: Alex Weinhagen <hinesburgplanning@gmavt.net>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2014 12:47 PM
To: Trevor Lashua
Subject: Route 116 Corridor Study

Trevor,

Please pass this message along to the Selectboard at your convenience. No rush, but I want them to be thinking about it ahead of and during the budget season. It will also be something for you to ruminate on as you work on updating the Capital Budget and Plan. It took the consultant extra time to create the executive summary, hence the delayed delivery from the project's June/July completion date.

Selectboard,

Our Route 116 Corridor Study wrapped up in July with a final report by the project consultant (Lucy Gibson, Dubois & King). You reviewed the draft report with the consultant at your April 21, 2014 meeting, and the final report includes various revisions based on feedback received. The final report (56 pgs plus attachments; 149 pgs total) and a much shorter executive summary (13 pgs) are being posted to the Town website at <http://www.hinesburg.org/route116-corridor-study/>. The full report is too large to email, but I have attached the executive summary to this email for you to review. Trevor and I each have a hard copy of the report, which could be shared if Board members find it easier to read paper instead of the digital document.

Please pay particular attention to the last two pages of the executive summary where potential implementation projects are listed. Regarding traffic congestion, the study found that completion of planned Route 116 intersection improvements at CVU Road and Charlotte Road would have the most substantial positive impact. Improving efficiency at just these two intersections is predicted to reduce vehicular travel time through the village area by nearly 25% during the evening peak!

1. CVU Rd Intersection - VTrans is managing the planned Route 116, CVU Road intersection improvement. This project will add turn lanes and improve signalization. It is a funded project that is currently scheduled to go to construction in 2017. We will need to be very diligent to hold VTrans to this time horizon, as the project was originally forecast to go to construction in 2014 or 2015.
2. Charlotte Rd Intersection - No one is managing the "planned" Route 116, Charlotte Road intersection improvement. The needed improvement is to change the signal from 3-phase to 2-phase, with a corresponding shift to the Lantmans exit to move the stop bar, sidewalk, and pedestrian signal forward. The phase change will give the Lantmans exit and Charlotte Road a green light at the same time (like most 4-way intersections). VTrans stubbornly insists that the Lantmans exit changes must happen concurrently for safety. Hannaford project engineers (Lamoureux & Dickinson) identified the needed improvement, and Hannaford's development approval requires them to make the improvement before occupancy of the new store. However, the Hannaford project is tied up in court (likely for 1-2 more years) and its future remains uncertain. Town staff has been working with VTrans for a couple years now to find a way to get these improvements done sooner, but we've had no luck identifying a funding source to cover the cost. I strongly recommend that the Town take "ownership" of this project, and that funding for it be added to the FY15-16 Town budget, so that this relatively simple project can be completed in 2015. Perhaps we can work out an agreement with Hannaford for repayment. I think it should be fixed regardless, given that it is the undisputed bottleneck for peak traffic times. Leaving it to VTrans means it probably won't be addressed for many years.

Alex Weinhagen

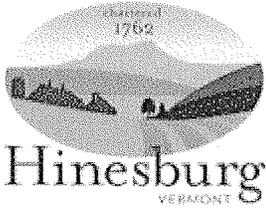
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