



**Meeting
Notes**

Attendees: Honorable Mayor Mike Bronko
Christopher Edson, Chief of Police
Charles R. Doback, Chief, Fire Marshal
Keith D. Rosenfeld, Town Planner
James R. Stewart, Borough Engineer
Hank Witkoski Jr, Dept of Streets
Melanie Zimyeski, CT DOT Planning
Vahid Karimi, VHB
Soujanya Chalumuri, VHB

Date/Time: 12/15/2008
10:00 am to 11 am

Project No.: State Project No. 124-164
VHB Project 41488

Place: Naugatuck Town Hall

Re: Community Outreach Meeting
Borough of Naugatuck

Notes taken by: Soujanya Chalumuri, P.E.

The meeting was held to discuss the Route 8 Deficiencies and Needs Study project and obtain input from the Borough of Naugatuck officials relative to traffic and safety concerns along the Route 8 corridor.

Melanie Zimyeski opened the meeting by providing an overview of the study objectives, introduced project team, discussed the role of CT DOT and regional planning agencies, and further outlined the overall study process.

The discussion followed by Vahid Karimi describing the study area, key elements of the work plan and study phases and project schedule milestones. He then opened the meeting up for input from the group.

- Mayor Mike Bronco started the meeting by referring to the ongoing Downtown Revitalization Project (EIS). He mentioned that Peter Simmons at DECD and Eric Mass at Fuss and O'Neil are the key contacts to obtain information relevant to this project.
- Mayor also referred to the Riverwalk Greenway Project being prepared by Milone and MacBroom consulting firm. The first phase of the project is in design and the walkway has been incorporated onto Exit 27. Currently only a 4' walkway is available in the area. Keith Rosenfeld will provide concept drawings of the Greenway project and the master plan to the project team.
- Chief of Police Christopher Edson asked Melanie and VHB if more lanes will be considered to be added to Route 8. It was stated that adding additional capacity to Route 8 mainline is not

the emphasis of this study, but rather providing solutions to critically deficient ramps termini, weaving sections and secondary intersecting streets.

- Police Chief highlighted the severity of the accident history at exit 22 and that Route 8 traffic volume generally accumulates to the south of this exit.
- Police Chief also mentioned that the exits off of the highway should be revisited and made more inviting to visitors by creating a gateway into the town.
- Mayor discussed the redundancy of the ramp entrance/exits on N. Main Street and the opportunity for consolidating the ramps to provide better connectivity to the downtown. He also mentioned that truck turns are difficult near this ramp.
- There was mention of icing/flooding issues near Exit 28 and hydroplaning near Maple Street.
- Keith Rosenfeld mentioned that several major exits have intersected neighborhood areas (i.e. Platts Mill, Union City). He suggested that the study evaluates the best use of available right of way along Route 8 corridor with considerations for multimodal transportation system.
- Vahid asked about the current status of existing emergency pre-emption equipment at the secondary intersections. Fire Chief Charles Doback responded that the town currently uses the Opticom system.
- Police Chief mentioned that there are no traffic diversion plans available for a section of Route 8 between Waterbury and Shelton. This section is critically important for incident management on Route 8.
- Vahid talked about the Intelligent Transportation Systems component of the study and asked about the existing Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) and CCTV cameras in the Town. It was stated that there is only one portable message board on northbound Route 8 between exits 25 and 26. There are no DMS on Southbound Route 8 in the town.
- Mayor mentioned the Route 63 Bridge is currently being renovated by CT DOT. He referred to the EIS study and the possibility of providing a walkway.
- Fire Chief discussed the need for providing a working area/platform on NB Route 8 at Exit 25 for emergency personnel to have direct access to the river for rescue mission during recreational activities.
- Fire chief also mentioned that Route 8 has longer commuter peak hours and the corridor carries heavy traffic volumes till 7 PM.
- Keith to provide the team with the design plans of Cross Street realignment at New Haven Road (Route 63). There is a parcel near Cross Street that may be redeveloped in the future, but there are almost no roads to connect to it.
- Other problems highlighted in the study area include: traffic back-up at Exit 25 NB-off ramp during the PM peak hours; short weave areas between exits 26 and 27; a recent fatal accident on NB off -ramp at South Main Street; sharp roadway curvature at Exit 29 SB on-ramp.

- Fire Chief highlighted the truck route for O&G tankers at Exit 29. He mentioned that at least 10 tankers per day access Waterbury road from the SB off-ramp. He suggested the study evaluates the safety and geometric realignment of the off-ramp at this location.
- Times of heaviest traffic on Route 8 (weekdays) were discussed as 6:00am-9:00am and 4:00pm-7:00pm.
- Vahid closed the meeting with discussions on next steps in the study process, the outreach meetings with other towns along the corridor and the coordination/collaboration with stakeholder group meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 11 am.

AGENDA
Community Outreach Meeting
Route 8 Interchange 22-30 Deficiencies and Needs Study
(Project No. 124-164)

Date: December 15, 2008
Time: 10:00 to 11:30 A.M.
Location: Borough of Naugatuck

AGENDA:

1. Introductions
2. Discussions of Project Scope and Schedule
3. Local Issues Related to the Route 8 Corridor
4. Downtown Circulation Issues/Concerns
5. Local Transportation Improvement Projects
6. Development Activities/Other Plans
7. Next Steps:
 - Formation of Stakeholder Group
 - Documentation of Existing Conditions
 - Targeted Outreach Meetings