



**Meeting
Notes**

Attendees: James Sequin, City Planner
Neil M. O'Leary, Chief of Police
Joe Perrelli, COGCNV
Denis Cuevas, Traffic Engineer
Joseph Geary, Director of Operations
Melanie Zimyeski, CT DOT Planning
Katherine Rattan, CT DOT Planning
Ruth Bonsignore, VHB
Soujanya Chalumuri, VHB

Date/Time: 01/22/2009
10:00 am to 11:00 am

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

Place: Waterbury Public Works Department

Re: Community Outreach Meeting
City of Waterbury

Notes taken by: Soujanya Chalumuri, P.E.

The meeting was held to discuss the Route 8 Deficiencies and Needs Study and obtain input from the City of Waterbury 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 with Ruth Bonsignore describing the study area, key elements of the work plan and study phases and project schedule milestones. She then opened the meeting up for input from the group on any transportation issues that they have within the study corridor and insight on development activities that may affect future conditions in the vicinity of Interchanges 29 and 30.

- Chief of Police O'Leary initiated discussion by referring to the ongoing "Mixmaster study" (I-84/Route 8 Waterbury Interchange Needs Study) and asked if the improvements will be coordinated between the two projects. Ruth stated that the Route 8 corridor study will tie into the proposed improvements at Exit 30 recommended in that study.
- When asked about the traffic or safety concerns in the study corridor, the Police Chief noted that he was not aware of specific traffic problems along Route 8 corridor in the area.

- James Sequin identified the following planned/approved potential developments in the area in the vicinity of Exits 30 and 29 along Route 8 corridor:
 - Approximately 500 approved residential units to be located west of the Route 8 corridor in the vicinity of Exit 30: consisting of 280 apartment units, 74 townhouses, 104 duplex units, and 31 detached townhomes.
 - Industrial development to the east of Route 8 corridor in the vicinity of Exit 29.
 - A new VFW Hall and big box retail development at the intersection of Waterbury Road and Platts Mill Road. The approximate three-acre site is expected to be developed in 2009.
 - A proposal for a food waste to energy incinerator development to be located along Washington Avenue is in the initial planning stages.
 - Duggan School, a neighborhood school located along Washington Avenue/Bank Street, is undergoing renovations and is proposed to be reopened. (The school is currently not in operation).
- Denis Cuevas mentioned that Washington Street at Exit 30 carries heavy tractor-trailer traffic and highlighted concerns regarding the limited access in the area due to low vertical clearances under the bridges. He also said that there is a need to implement a closed loop signal system to improve traffic flow at intersections in the vicinity of Exit 30.
- Denis also highlighted that South Main Street is currently underutilized and that traffic volume at the traffic signal at the Route 8 ramp does not meet warrants. He also mentioned that Washington Street is the busiest area within the study corridor in Waterbury.
- Ruth inquired about any bicycle/pedestrian concerns in the study area. The Greenway project was identified and it was mentioned that the area in the vicinity of Exit 30 could be improved for pedestrian activities.
- James Sequin and Denis Cuevas identified that providing variable message signs closer to Exit 29 may be beneficial to consider for disseminating I-84 traveler information to motorists.
- Joe Perrelli mentioned that the study team should look at the feasibility of providing a bike route between S. Main Street and N. Main Street for a connection between the Borough of Naugatuck and the City of Waterbury.
- Ruth asked if there are any planned transportation improvement projects in the area. Denis mentioned a drainage improvements project along Sunnyside Avenue and the potential connection of Jackson Street to Freight Street at Exit 30. Also there is a proposed Intermodal Transportation Center and a potential reconstruction of Pearl Lake Road in Waterbury.
- Denis mentioned that in the vicinity of Exit 36 (north of the study area), Huntington Avenue is the most travelled route. He mentioned that traffic at this exit backs up onto the highway due to inadequate capacity on the ramps.

- Ruth noted the light truck traffic along the corridor and asked for feedback. It was stated that trucks using I-84 and I-95 corridors normally do not prefer to travel on Route 8 since the roadway narrows down to two lanes at Exit 15.
- Ruth closed the meeting with discussions on next steps in the study process, and the City's continued involvement through the 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: January 22, 2009
Time: 10:00 to 11:30 A.M.
Location: City of Waterbury

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