

Vermont Traffic Committee
DRAFT Minutes of Meeting Held
March 9, 2020

The Vermont Traffic Committee met on Monday March 9, 2020. Committee Chair Joe Flynn called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM in the VTrans 25 Seat Conference Room, Dill Building, Berlin, Vermont. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Attendees:

Joe Flynn, Secretary of Transportation, Traffic Committee Chair
Wanda Minoli, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, Traffic Committee Member
Lt. Tara Thomas, Delegate for Commissioner of Public Safety, Traffic Committee Member
Leslie Welts, AAG, Traffic Committee Legal Advisor

Ian Degutis, VTrans Traffic Operations Engineer, Traffic Committee Coordinator

Leigh Dakin, Selectboard Member, Chester VT
Julie Hance, Assistant Town Manager, Chester VT
Todd Parah, Transportation Director, Chester School
Jerry McMahan, Selectboard Member, Duxbury VT

Marcos Miller, VTrans Traffic Operations
Tyler Guazzoni, VTrans Traffic Operations
Kristin Driscoll, VTrans Traffic Operations
Josh Schultz, VTrans Operations and Safety Bureau Director
Mandy White, VTrans Data Unit Manager – OSB
Jim Baraw, VTrans Office of Highway Safety
Josh Taylor, VTrans Traffic Operations
Luke Chamberlain, VTrans Rotational Engineer

Agenda Items Discussed

- **Chester VT-103, Reduced Speed Limit:** Mr. Degutis explained that the town requested a reduced speed limit in the vicinity of Green Mountain High School. This request was presented to the Committee at the last meeting on December 11, 2019 and was tabled to give the Town time to gather more information to present to the Committee. Mr. Degutis noted that additional speed studies were conducted since the December 11 meeting and the 85th percentile remained within 1 mph of the last findings presented. The engineering study showed the following; in the posted 40 mph at the school drive 85th percentile speed of 43-44 mph, at the 30/40 mph transition 85th percentile speed of 39 mph, and in the 40 mph just North of Drew's Drive 85th percentile of 50-51 mph. Mr. Degutis also explained that VTrans recently installed additional warning signage in the area, including gate-posting signs to improve visibility. Traffic Operations continues to recommend no change to the existing speed limits. Secretary Flynn asked the Town of Chester representatives if they would like to present any information. Julie Hance, Chester Assistant Town Manager, stated that they have a lot of resident concerns regarding speeds near the high school. She also stated information from the Town Police, in 2019 they have ticketed 151 drivers for speeding and given 40 warnings in that area. Leigh Dakin, Town selectboard member, stated that the area is heavily populated with several businesses and has 2 crosswalks in the area. Ms. Hance mentioned that they have radar speed

feedback signs on Town roads and would like to have them on the State Route but have been told no in the past. Secretary Flynn stated that there is a process for that through permitting and generally the State has been supportive of these installations. Ian Degutis and Ms. Hance will talk after the meeting about the process. Todd Parah, School Transportation Director, stated that there is a definite problem that needs a change. Especially with the busses and the ski traffic surrounding weekends. He mentioned sight distance is tough looking left coming out of the school drive. Ms. Dakin then stated that she wanted to thank the Agency for the new additional signage along VT-103, that it had made a difference. Marcos Miller, SE Regional Traffic Investigator stated that he had worked with the school to put a crosswalk in the 30 mph zone to get to the ball field and there are advanced signs NB and SB for it. Secretary Flynn asked about extending the 30 mph past the school drive and questioned if it should go down to Drew's Drive. There was some discussion about the confusion at the entrance to Drew's and the signage there and if there was an 1111 permit issued. Mrs. Dakin stated that there was a recent upgrade to signs there. Commissioner Minoli asked if the 30 mph was moved south past the school drive, where would it be? Mr. Miller replied approximately 1000 feet, but the location would be determined in the field. Leslie Welts, AAG, asked if there was any Safe Routes to School information to which the answer was no. Secretary Flynn proposed to extend the 30 mph zone approximately 1000 feet south, making it south of the school drive and Traffic Committee voted unanimously to do so. A location will be determined by Traffic Operations and a cert will be forwarded for signature electronically.

- **Duxbury VT-100, School Speed Limit:** Mr. Degutis explained that the town requested to reduce the speed in the existing school zone; he further explained that their request letter included a number of additional requests that are outside the purview of Traffic Committee, and that the requests had been passed on to others in the Agency. The school zone is currently 35 mph when flashing, in a 40 mph zone. Traffic Operations recommendation is to reduce the school zone to 30 mph when flashing. Jerry McMahan, Duxbury Selectboard Member, indicated that the Selectboard was supportive of the recommendation, and inquired about having a better transition from the current 40 mph to the south of the school zone speed limit. It was discussed that the grades and the geometry of the road likely do not favor a 35 transition zone and decided that the Town may request that at a later date after the lower school zone has been in place. Leslie Welts asked if there was any data collected for Safe Routes to School. Mr. Degutis indicated the answer was no. Traffic Committee voted to accept the recommended to lower the school zone to 30-mph when flashing.
- **Bloomfield VT-105 Speed Limit:** Mr. Degutis explained that the town requested to extend the 30 mph speed limit 300 feet west on VT-105. Traffic Operations recommendation is to adjust the transition approximately 635 in order to align the transition with roadway characteristics. Consequently, the 40 mph transition zone is also recommended to be extended approximately 845 feet to the west to create an appropriate transition length. Traffic Committee voted to accept the recommendation to shift the 30 and 40 mph transition zone as recommended.
- **Middlebury VT-116 and VT-125, Speed Limit:** Mr. Degutis explained that the town recently requested to table this item till next Traffic Committee Meeting to allow the residents additional time to gather information. The Committee agreed to table the item until the next meeting.
- **Milton US-7, Speed Limit:** Mr. Degutis explained that the town requested to lower the 50 mph speed limit between Catamount Drive and Bartlett Road. Mr. Degutis noted that speed studies were conducted in the 50 mph zone in that area and the 85th percentile of speeds were found to

be 49-50 mph showing good compliance with the posted speed limit, and does not recommend lowering the speed limit. It was also noted that while conducting the study, Traffic Operations noted that the installation of advanced intersection warning signs for Sidesaddle Drive would help intersection visibility and will be generating a work order to have them installed. The existing 50-40 transition at the north end of the study area was noted to be unusually short, Traffic Operations does recommend adjusting the 40 mph zone 500 feet to the south to a point on the crest of the vertical curve to create a better transition to the 35 mph zone further north. Traffic Committee voted in favor of traffic Operations recommendation to extend the 40 mph zone 500 feet to the south.

- **Shoreham VT-22A, Speed Limit:** Mr. Degutis explained that the Town had requested an extension to the 40 mph zone to the north past Duffany Road. Mr. Degutis noted that speed studies were conducted in the 50 mph zone in that area and the 85th percentile of speeds were found to be 56-58 mph. The roadway characteristic north of the village change and support the current speed limit. Traffic Operations recommends no change to existing speed zones. There was some discussion surrounding the noted school bus stop. It was stated that there was an existing school bus stop ahead sign. Lt. Thomas asked about adding reflective strips to the poles on the SBSA sign. Traffic Operations agreed that would help visibility and will process a work order. Traffic Committee voted in favor of Traffic Operations recommendation of no change.
- **Westmore VT-5A, Seasonal Speed Limit:** Mr. Degutis explained that the Town requested a 0.44 mile extension of the seasonal 35 mph speed limit to the south on VT-5A to include the Mt. Pisgah Trail head. Commissioner Minoli asked if this item had been before the Committee recently. It was explained that this relates to a proposed recreational parking area and that part of the intent of the request was to be accommodate Forest and Parks building a parking lot to help alleviate the parking issues in the area. Traffic Operations recommends extending the seasonal 35 mph zone 475 to the south to include the entrance to the proposed parking facility, making the sight distance within range thus allowing it to be permitted and used seasonally. Secretary Flynn asked how much further the Mt. Pisgah Trail head would be. Kristin Driscoll, NE Regional Traffic Investigator, produced a plan showing the parking facilities and a discussion ensued about the proposed parking facility plan and how pedestrians would get to the beach or trails. It was discussed that a full study of the area could be conducted once the facility was fully built and operational giving the town the best most realistic engineering study. Traffic Committee voted in favor of Traffic Operations recommendation to extend the seasonal 35 mph 475 to the south.

Additional Agenda Items: Mr. Degutis gave a brief explanation of the remaining agenda items, all of which were minor adjustments to certificates:

- **Guilford-Brattleboro:** Sign speed certificates from last meeting for a new speed zone since the deadline of responding to our request passed with no comments from either town.
- **Ferrisburgh: VT-22A** Rewrote certificate with updated MP references.
- **New Haven VT-17 Speed Certificate:** Rewrote certificate with updated MP references.
- **New Haven US-7 Speed Certificate:** Rewrote certificate with MP references.
- **US-4 Rutland Limited Access Speed Certificate:** Rewrote certificate upon discovery that existing signage does not match certificate at the Rutland, US-7 end. Location of exiting east bound SL55 signs makes sense. Decided to rewrite cert to match current sign location as it seems appropriate.