

## Department of Transportation

**State Project No. 124-162  
Rotary Upgrade to Modern Roundabout  
Route 188 at Route 334 and Holbrook Road  
Town of Seymour  
Public Informational Meeting Held at  
Seymour Community Center  
20 Pine Street, Seymour  
Wednesday February 6, 2013**

### Minutes

#### Presentation:

- ⇒ There were approximately 14 attendees, including Mr. Fred Messoro, the Economic Development Director for the Town of Seymour, two (2) members of the Great Hill United Methodist Church, and a reporter with the New Haven Register. The audience was comprised of both Seymour and Oxford residents.
- ⇒ A colored plan of the proposed improvements and a rendering of before and after images were displayed. The Department presented the Preliminary Design proposal to the attendees, including a detailed explanation of the crash history at this location.
- ⇒ The primary purpose of this project is to enhance the safety and improve the sightlines of the rotary type intersection at Route 334, Route 188, and Holbrook Road. The following improvements are proposed:
  - The proposed project would upgrade the existing four-leg rotary intersection to a modern type roundabout.
  - The approach geometry would be modified and the splitter islands would be raised and lengthened to channelize traffic into a more deflected pattern.
  - The center island would be raised and landscaped to increase visibility from the approaches.
  - The profile on Route 334 would be lowered to improve sightlines.
- ⇒ All proposed work is expected to take place within the State Right of Way.
- ⇒ Two utility poles are expected to be relocated.
- ⇒ The estimated cost of the project is \$2.2 million which would be 100% State funded.
- ⇒ Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2015 based on the availability of funding.

#### Public Comments and Questions:

- ⇒ A resident expressed support for the proposed design. However, concerns regarding the scope of the project were brought up. The resident suggested fixing the sightline issue on Route 334 first, then addressing the other design issues individually if results are not achieved. The Department explained that it is the combination of all the design attributes of a modern type roundabout that lead to its increased safety and simply constructing individual components would not achieve the same results.
- ⇒ A resident expressed concern about spending money on the installation of concrete sidewalks, stating that there is no need. The resident suggested that we fix the sightline issue on Route 334 and simply add stop signs to the existing footprint. He felt the splitter islands served no purpose. The resident said he felt there is no problem with the

way the rotary is operating today. The Department explained that alternative sidewalk materials are being investigated to reduce cost.

- ⇒ A resident explained that in an article published online it was unclear that the cited crashes all occurred directly at the rotary. He stated that there was no need for him to come if he had known that the ten (10) accidents were not just in the “area” but in the rotary itself. He expressed concern with the lack of one-way signage on the proposed rendering as compared to the existing condition.
- ⇒ A resident expressed concerns with the intersection. He stated that the majority of the confusion at this rotary intersection stems from drivers not knowing who to yield to, despite the signage. The Department explained that beneath the yield signs will be a sign displaying the words “to vehicles in the roundabout” to alleviate the confusion.
- ⇒ A resident expressed doubts that the accident data provided by the Department was accurate. He requested that the \$2.2 million be allocated elsewhere, namely the Seymour Board of Education. The Department explained that the crash data received is from the State Police, noting that there were likely more accidents that went unreported.
- ⇒ Two (2) representatives from the Great Hill United Methodist Church requested that something be done to slow vehicles traveling east on Route 334 leaving the rotary. The sightline from their driveway is very poor looking toward the rotary and they were interested in further grading on the corner of Route 334 and Route 188 to improve the sightlines and possibly relocate the driveways all together.

**Adjournment:** In general, the modern roundabout design was well received by the residents however, the majority of the attendees were unhappy with spending \$2.2 million on this project, citing budget deficiencies. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.