

South Royalton Village Center Sidewalk Scoping Study

Local Concerns Meeting Notes

June 6, 2018

Royalton, VT

Carolyn Radisch, AICP GPI Project Manager and Rebecca Brown, PE, PTOE GPI Project Engineer gave an overview of the VTrans Sidewalk Scoping Study process and reviewed the sidewalk, traffic flow and pedestrian safety issues that had been observed in the area. They opened the floor to comments, questions and suggestions. The following comments were made.

Vermont Law School

Dean McHenry of the Vermont Law School (VLS) expressed support for the project and invited the Town to hold the next meeting at the Law School in South Royalton. He shared an historic photo of Chelsea Street before it was paved. They (VLS) would like to make the Barrister's Bookstore more open to the community. He also felt it was confusing that the intersection of N/S Windsor and Chelsea Street is only a two-way stop and not a four-way stop. He is in favor of pedestrian bumpouts and street trees.

Community members made the following comments:

Horse Trough

The Town voted to keep the horse trough in place at a town meeting. There have been some ideas floated to better accommodate it. It was mentioned that the horse trough is a traffic hazard – the police reported that a lot of crashes happen there. Others disagreed about the trough being a focus of crashes – the most crashes happen at the post office with cars backing onto Chelsea Street.

Parking

We can't afford to lose any parking.

Consider vehicle types with parking stalls. Many people in more rural areas have pick-up trucks and larger vehicles.

Loading

Sometimes larger vehicles use the loading zone because there are no other places where they can park (example: buses stop for ice cream after games, two trucks, landscape vehicles).

It was noted that Chelsea Street is so wide because there was another row of stores on the green side of the street. After two fires it was decided not to rebuild.

The street behind the shops is privately owned and too narrow for many trucks to load and unload.

RB's had four deliveries today as an example. Some drivers don't believe they could turn down Acton Street.

Some of the trucks are large semi's.

Is the watering trough tough for trucks to maneuver around? They go on the wrong side.

Are you doing any truck turning observations? We can do truck turning analysis, but need to know the actual truck sizes.

Trucks have trouble turning at Chelsea/Windsor Street

Chelsea Street Sidewalks

Who owns the sidewalks? The Town owns the sidewalks but the business owners are responsible for maintenance (snow removal).

If the sidewalks provide accessible entry will the businesses need to make other ADA upgrades? Like bathrooms, aisles, etc.? Businesses are grandfathered unless they make major renovations.

The Coop loves the idea of improved streetscape, shade and outdoor seating.

For many businesses it would be OK to lose the basement window wells. It would be nice to have a higher level with sidewalk seating that looks out over the cars to the Green. Some businesses have only one entrance – the construction impacts. How long would construction last?

The store entrances are on different levels. How would you address ADA?

Would outdoor tables require Town Ordinance. How wide would the clear zone need to be (a minimum of 5 feet for ADA – more may be desirable).

Sidewalk Extensions

Would like to see the sidewalks extended one-mile south – there are a lot of homes and I do not feel safe walking along South Windsor Street without a sidewalk.

Crossing at Law School (New Street)

Crossing at New Street (at the law school) is not safe – no one stops, you can't get across traffic. In the past the law school put out a cone in the middle of the street to slow traffic.

Sight Line Issues

SB @ Chelsea / Windsor

EB/SB/NB near library and RR

Other Pedestrian / Bicyclist Concerns

Signage is an issue with the pedestrian crossings.

We need pedestrian flashers at crosswalks.

Ped/bike warning/share the road signs.

Gateway features to let people know they are entering a village.

The bumpout idea is good – would like to see one around the trough.

The crossing at the law school used to be stamped brick painted red. Lines fade every year -- is there anything more durable for crosswalks?

Other Related Issues

Route 14 intersection crossing needs calming.

Crossing at the law school – speed is an issue.

One-way traffic around the green?

Pedestrians can't cross railroad to businesses.

Kids walking along the river thru the grass to Carpenter Field – emergency evacuation route for the school.

Is there Safe Routes to School Grants for some of these types of projects?

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- I live in the village center
- I work in the village center
- I go to school in the village center
- I shop in the village center
- I go to the library, post office or the green
- Other (specify): _____

I walk in South Royalton village:

- Daily
- 2-3 times per week
- Weekly
- 2-3 times per month

Sidewalk / pedestrian safety issues in South Royalton village I have noted are (please be specific about location):

- Cracks in sidewalk on main block/stored
- Crosswalk Signage - drivers do not stop
- New Street - broken sidewalk
- Sidewalk on North Window Street to beach area
- Make stored handicapped accessible.
- Extend Sidewalk from Library to Parts Store.
- Extend Sidewalk down S. Window Street

Improvements I feel are important for walking in South Royalton's village center (please consider Chelsea Street commercial block, missing sidewalk links, accessibility improvements, streetscape improvements, etc.)

- Crosswalks -
- more Horse Trough to a safer location

Other comments or concerns I have:

My question was not addressed
regarding signs for crosswalks -

We have more than just a parking
issue.

I felt the meeting was geared toward

the business owners - and not community needs.

Contact Information (Optional: Will be used to contact you about future meetings):

Name:

Carol Greene

Email:

carol.a.greene@dartmouth.edu

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On the side of 336 Chelsea St. where there is handicap parking (on the side of building) the drainage is terrible always pools water & ice up!

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Making the sidewalks smooth.
not sure about how you even the sidewalks with all of the businesses openings being at different levels?

Other comments or concerns I have:

parking is huge priority!

Contact Information (Optional: Will be used to contact you about future meetings):

Name: *Sherri Michaud*

Email: *spedmich@aol.com*

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- I go to school in the village center
- I shop in the village center
- I go to the library, post office or the green
- Other (specify): I live outside the village.

I walk in South Royalton village:

- Daily
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Sidewalk / pedestrian safety issues in South Royalton village I have noted are (please be specific about location):

Broken tiles, uneven steps, loose railings
unpredictable surfaces
erratic traffic patterns
curbs in places where they shouldn't be
Drainage is inadequate
Large steps/dropoffs without warning or rail. near post office,
near library, on railroad st

Improvements I feel are important for walking in South Royalton's village center (please consider Chelsea Street commercial block, missing sidewalk links, accessibility improvements, streetscape improvements, etc.)

even surfaces
lower curbs near sidewalks & crosswalks
Steps in sidewalk approaches are not cleaned in winter

Other comments or concerns I have:

pedestrian crossing RR tracks - pedestrian bridge?
alternative aside from a fence will or allow any changes

River walk - someday
should be able to connect to existing
sidewalk easily

parking is inadequate at times so we need to be
aware of any plans that reduce parking

consider if there is something that can be done about
the Back Alley - could improvements there solve some of the ADA
issues? it may require serious changes in the alley
what if there was a way to revitalize the back alley -
make an open mall with seats, and of course beautification.

I would also like to mention sign pollution can easily get
out of hand. please be aware of the detractor from the beauty
of the town when you place signs every 10 feet.

Contact Information (Optional: Will be used to contact you about future meetings):

Name: Stuart Levasseur Planning commission

Email: rpc767@charter.net

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Pedestrians walking across the street without being on designated crosswalks. Vehicles back-up, U-turn, travel on the left side of parked delivery vehicles and other chaotic maneuvers (often!)

Water trough has been the scene of many accidents, I've seen several not in alignment with east-bound lane.

Improvements I feel are important for walking in South Royalton's village center (please consider Chelsea Street commercial block, missing sidewalk links, accessibility improvements, streetscape improvements, etc.)

Parking space could be added if green was one-way
RR St toward N. Street should be one way, too narrow otherwise

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- I go to school in the village center
- I shop in the village center
- I go to the library, post office or the green
- Other (specify): I live within walking distance of village center

I walk in South Royalton village:

- Daily
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Sidewalk / pedestrian safety issues in South Royalton village I have noted are (please be specific about location):

No additional problems other than horrible icy conditions in winter

I do wish the sidewalks going North and south would extend ~~farther~~ farther

- North to RR tracks
- South to Hurricane Flats farm ☺

Improvements I feel are important for walking in South Royalton's village center (please consider Chelsea Street commercial block, missing sidewalk links, accessibility improvements, streetscape improvements, etc.)

all your ideas are great

I especially love the idea of streetscape improvements, better signage, and bumpouts

like Vergennes

★ move the horse trough!

From: Royalton Selectboard
To: ["First Branch"](#)
Cc: [Radisch, Carolyn](#)
Subject: RE: Sidewalk Meeting 06/06/2018 Academy Building
Date: Thursday, June 7, 2018 10:10:03 AM

Hello Andy

I have cc'd the engineer on this project so she can read your comments and respond. There will be another public meeting in September at the law school I will keep you informed.

Rose

From: First Branch [mailto:firstbranchcoffee@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2018 6:04 AM
To: Royalton Selectboard <rselectman@cptelco.net>
Cc: Chris Wood <balevt@gmail.com>; soromarket@gmail.com; Frank Romeo <fromeo@wrvsu.org>; Raynald Carre <RaynaldCarre@vermontlaw.edu>; Bencanellys@vermontlaw.edu; Lorraine Atwood <LATWOOD@vermontlaw.edu>; Christine M. Hudson <Christine.M.Hudson@hitchcock.org>; bushrodpowers@gmail.com; Jordan DyerJ <jdsalon61@gmail.com>; Joe Decoteau <royaltonrecreationcommittee@gmail.com>; Levasseur, Stuart <Stuart.Levasseur@vermont.gov>; Joshua Moore <jmoore@unitedchurchofsoro.org>; Brad Salzmann <falcon15@earthlink.net>
Subject: Re: Sidewalk Meeting 06/06/2018 Academy Building

Hi,

I would have liked to attend but had dinner plans with family and was wiped out from a long day.

Are there any meeting notes or updates that can be shared digitally or hard copy?

The one concern I wanted to get out there is the current challenge of loading and unloading pallets of product

on either side of building. It is very tight in the back and seems like often bottlenecked and pallets often sit on street obstructing what little parking there already is. Perhaps the side parallel with railroad tracks could be utilized more....

Thanks for setting up the meeting and sorry we could not attend.

:)

Andy

First Branch Coffee/Upper Pass Beer Co.

On Tue, Jun 5, 2018 at 10:02 AM, Royalton Selectboard <rselectman@cptelco.net> wrote:

Hello

Reminder of meeting.

Please pass along to those who may be interested

All are welcome.

JUNE 6, 2018

Project: SOUTH ROYALTON	MADE BY:	DATE:
Project No: SIDEWALK SCOPING	CHECKED BY:	DATE:

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6	Carol Whitney	
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