

MEETING SUMMARY

Sand Creek Road Complete Streets Study Village of Colonie, NY

Agenda: Public Input Session #1
Date & Time: Monday July 24, 2023, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Platform: Open House at the Village Family Recreation Center

Study Advisory Committee Attendees:			
Name:	Representing:	Name:	Representing:
Kerry Bytner	Sunset Boulevard Neighborhood Association	Ed Sim	Village of Colonie
Jacob Beeman	Capital Region Transportation Council	Jim Rubino	Village of Colonie
Rima Shamieh	Capital Region Transportation Council	Jamie Blot	Village of Colonie
Frank Prevratil	Village Traffic Committee	Hannah Curran	Village of Colonie
Consultant Team Attendees:			
Megan Bacon, Andris Blumbergs, Lisa Wallin - MJ Engineering & Land Surveying, P.C.			

There were 47 attendees that signed in; the sign in sheets are attached.

Open House Summary:

1. Committee members arrived at 5:45 PM at the Village’s Family Recreation Center for the Public Input Session #1 open house.
2. The open house began at 6:30 PM and a brief introduction was given to attendees at 6:45 PM.
3. Ed Sim welcomed attendees before handing the remainder of the presentation over to MJ.
4. Lisa and Megan gave a brief introduction to the Study, which covered the following:
 - Introductions
 - Study Overview & Objectives
 - Complete Streets Overview & Examples
 - Schedule Overview
 - Existing Conditions Overview
5. Ed thanked everyone for their time and encouraged attendees to walk around the room to view the informational boards, ask questions, and leave comments.
6. Several attendees had comments and questions that they requested be heard in front of the group:
 - Bill Gariepy stated that there is a lot of truck traffic along Sand Creek Road, speeding is an issue, and his mailbox has been hit several times. Mr. Gariepy requested that 3-way stops at the intersections be considered.
 - A Sand Creek Road resident questioned why Sand Creek Road was being called a corridor. She stated her opposition to bus stops and explained that the sidewalks are untraversable due to poor condition.
 - A Space Boulevard resident stated that he was happy to hear that different modes of transportation will be considered for the study.
 - In regard to a sentence on the study flyer, “the Village of Colonie is poised for growth and development”, an attendee questioned what development is being referred to? It was clarified that the development in question refers to the development around the corridor within the Town of Colonie.
 - An attendee asked if there were any plans to widen the road? It was stated that there are no plans for roadway widening at this time, and Ed reminded attendees that this is a Study to find out what improvements are warranted.
 - An attendee stated that coordination with the Town of Colonie is needed for this study. It was confirmed that the Town has been involved with the study as part of the advisory committee.
7. Ed again thanked everyone and the group Q&A concluded.
8. A summary of the comments left on the roll plots, poster board, and in the comment box are below.

9. The open house concluded at 8:00 PM.

Roll Plot Comments:

- The section of Sand Creek Road from Watervliet Shaker Road to Shaker Run is dangerous for pedestrians, especially at night.
- Consider adding 3-way stops at major intersections.
- Dead-end Hunting Road, Mordella Road, and Delafield Drive as recommended in Phase III in the Village Master Plan.
- The vegetation located at 598 Sand Creek Road creates sight distance issues for residents trying to turn onto Sand Creek Road from their driveways.
- Access management is needed at the Smile Zone and Tiny Town of Colonie as the non-delineated entrances and exits create confusion and are a safety issue.
- Consider a bicycle/roller blade path along the corridor.
- Bauer Park needs a signalized mid-block crossing due to heavy pedestrian traffic. Maybe a raised crosswalk could be considered.
- Mordella Road needs a signalized mid-block crossing due to heavy pedestrian traffic from the school.
- Consider sidewalks on the west side of Sand Creek Road. Another attendee disagreed.
- The existing sidewalks along the east side of Sand Creek Road need to be replaced.
- Crosswalks should be considered from the side streets to the existing sidewalk on the east side of Sand Creek Road. Another attendee stated that not all side streets should receive a crosswalk.
- Consider a left turn lane into the Sunset Boulevard neighborhood.
- Consider protected bicycle lanes along Sand Creek Road. Another attendee agreed.
- Updated/new crosswalks are needed at the Sand Creek Road / Computer Drive South intersection.
- Roundabouts would allow people to take rights and ultimately travel north along Sand Creek Road.
- Consider a left turning lane onto Computer Drive South. Another attendee agreed.
- The light at Computer Drive South needs attention as it regularly backs up at certain times of the day.
- Vehicles attempting to make the left turn onto Computer Drive South create delays. This leads to motorists attempting to pass on the right where there is not sufficient room to do so.
- Consider access management for the driveways between Computer Drive South and Wolf Road.
- Vehicles making turns off of Sand Creek Road between Computer Drive South and Wolf Road create backups.
- The signal timing/phasing for motorists making a left from Sand Creek Road onto Wolf Road is confusing.

Poster Board Comments:

- Central Avenue should be considered for a study as well.
- Consider a traffic light at Mordella Road to allow school buses and residents to enter and exit.
- Consider a traffic light at Delafield Drive and/or Mordella Road to allow for left turns onto Sand Creek Road.
- Widen the shoulders along Sand Creek Road, add a bicycle lane, or sign for bicycle route.
- Can the traffic counts be extended to 7:00 AM – 10:00 AM? Elementary start time is 9:15 AM.
 - Traffic counts were taken continuously over a 72-hour period. The turning movement counts at the two intersections were taken from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM.
- Consider a crosswalk from Delafield Drive to Bauer Park.
- Do traffic counts consider those who leave the area for the winter?
 - Traffic counts are typically taken while school is in session as this is when traffic is at its peak. The decrease in traffic from those who leave the area for the winter does not typically affect the timing of peak traffic.
- Consider a streetlight at the Sand Creek Road and Mordella Road intersection.

Verbal Comments:

- Consider fixing the sidewalk gaps and providing bicycle connectivity along the vacant parcels.
- Install cameras in speed signs to enforce the speed limit.
- Street lighting should be considered as there is a lot of deer/wildlife activity along Sand Creek Road between Hunting Road and Watervliet Shaker Road.
- There is frequent bicycle and pedestrian traffic.
- Improving public transit options along the corridor should be considered.