



Meeting Notes

Date: November 29, 2022

Notes Taken By: Rose O'Brien

Place: Pomfret Town Office

Re: S Pomfret Alternatives Presentation & Public Meeting

Project No.: 58786.00

ATTENDEES:

Project Team

Jonathan Harrington, Municipal Project Manager

Jenn Conley, PE, PTOE VHB Project Manager

Rose O'Brien, Public Outreach

Members of the Public

Glenn Barbi (online)

Mary Ann Barbi (online)

Annie Bower (online)

Vern Clifford (online)

Presentation

Jenn Conley presented an overview from the Local Concerns meeting, the final Purpose and Need from the Selectboard, and then the Alternatives while taking public comment during each alternative presentation.

Public Input on Alternatives

Alternative 1

A resident asked if lanes could be narrowed to 10 feet to allow for the addition of wider shoulders without the need to widen the road or widen minimally.

There was concern about the placement of the median on Stage Road and at the intersection of Stage Road and Pomfret Road due to the need to widen the road to add the median near residences and potential conflict with driveways and trucks turning. Another resident suggested the use of mountable curb on the median to avoid turning movement and plowing issues.

Residents are concerned that widening the road will cause drainage issues in the front yards and homes next to the road. Another resident pointed out that there are already drainage issues that could be fixed in this area.

There was lots of approval of Library Street. Residents liked adding crosswalks, redefining the Library Street and Stage Road intersection, defining the parking on Library Street. There was mixed reaction to moving the exit to Artistree due to current drainage issues and conflicting turning movements. The maintenance and drainage of the sidewalk between the Grange Theater, Library, and Teago was a concern to several residents.

Alternative 2

A resident expressed concerned with Artistree exiting by their home on Stage Road and increasing traffic at that location.

There are concerns of speeding on Pomfret Road (north) and Library Street if Pomfret Road tees into Library at that intersection. A resident suggested adding a median on the north leg of Pomfret Road to slow speed approaching the main intersection.

Alternative 3

Several residents liked the one-way roads on Library Street and Pomfret Rd since shoulders could be added without widening the road. There was concern about trucks turning onto Pomfret Road from Stage Road which is currently a difficult turn.

One resident pointed out that the handicapped parking by Teago would put a vans handicap ramp into the roadway if the road is a northbound one-way. Suggested moving the handicapped spot to Library Street and removing the existing space and curb bump-out from the Pomfret Road and Stage Road intersection to improve turning movements.

There were suggestions to add a median to the Pomfret Road north leg to slow traffic coming onto Library Street. The shown hatched area could be raised with mountable curb to achieve this.

There was concern that one-way roads would create more traffic in locations it was not before.

There was support of the Artistree exit realignment, but without parking.

Continued support of redefining Library Street.

Alternative 4

There was support of a bicycle and pedestrian path on Library Street with no vehicle access.

There is a concern of loss of parking with this alternative.

Suggested placing medians before curve on south leg of Pomfret Road, by Artistree on north leg of Pomfret Road, and by Saskadena Six on Stage Road.

There are concerns about closing Library Street with the potential need to close or replace bridges on Pomfret Rd and Stage Road.

Discussion by Segment:

Stage Road

A resident suggested striping lanes at 10' lanes with no widening for shoulder.

Several residents do not want a median on Stage Road.

At least add shoulder on one side of road at four feet, but without widening.

A resident asked if we could address drainage issues.

Intersection

There was overwhelming support for teeing Pomfret Road into Stage Road and Library Street into Stage Road and Pomfret Road.

Some suggested keeping Library Street two-way but making Pomfret Road one-way northbound only.

If the Pomfret Road/Stage Road intersection was improved to allow for large truck turns from Stage Road to Pomfret Road, then the one-way combined alternative is an option.

Many believe eliminating Library Street will cause too many issues at the Stage Road/Pomfret Road intersection for large turning vehicles.

Artistree Exit

Support for moving exit due to current issues with drainage and turning movements.

A resident pointed out that moving the exit away from the entrance will help separate traffic and further improve turning movements and traffic flow.

Pomfret Road

Most agree that the south leg of Pomfret Road poses the biggest problem for pedestrian and bicycle users. Preferred to add shoulder on south side of road (four feet suggested but widening as much as is feasible).

Library Parking

Approval for defining parking spaces, but concern of loss of parking (currently 7-8 spots on east side and parallel parking for trucks or vehicles with trailers on west side).