



Memorandum

To: Jon Harrington
Town of Pomfret

Date: 08/21/2023

Project #: 58786.00

From: Elisabeth Sundberg
Karen Sentoff

Re: Pomfret Scoping Report

Response to Comments

VHB primarily responded to comments with direct revisions in the Village of South Pomfret Scoping Study final report. The feedback and comments received that did not prompt direct revision and/or required further response were included with response below. Additional **comments** received are in bold font and *response to comments* are included in italics.

Also, the final draft appears to have omitted right of way information that was included the maps provided in the existing conditions section and the one paragraph narrative in the alternative section concerning the library parcel. Why was this information omitted? Isn't ROW an important aspect of the impacts to the project that should be considered and addressed in the report? As you know question was brought up right of way control over the library parcel, with further evidence produced indicating that the Town has control over Library Street. Shouldn't that be addressed in the report, perhaps as a minimum this new information be added to the report and if necessary, made clear that the right of way needs to be researched and confirmed?

The right-of-way language has been updated to add clarity.

During alternative analysis, I feel that as presented the public got the impression that the Abbott Library owned Library Street and this could have had an impact on the preferred alternative. Considering this, should the alternatives selection be revisited?

Although there is now more clarity regarding the Library Street right-of-way, there were other factors weighed in the preferred alternative selection that make it unlikely to shift the outcome of the public process. As such, we do not think that it is appropriate to revisit the alternatives at this stage in the project. The preferred alternative went through the public process and was approved by the Selectboard. The inclusion of a pilot of the one way pair provides an opportunity for a second look at the preferred alternative during the design phase.

Based on what? suggest referencing this. [in reference to crashes in the study area]

A reference for the crash data was added.

Should the preferred alternative be referenced here, ie. as defined on page...

A reference to the preferred alternatives sections was added.

Or two way. Wasn't the possibility of leaving Pomfret Road two way mentioned?

The goal of the pilot will be to try the one-way pair. Evaluation of the pilot will provide insight into whether the one-way pair works well or whether an alternative like coupling one-way on Library with two-way on Pomfret Road would be more successful.

Should shoulder on north side be defined here, should at least be one or two feet.

We are assuming minimum widening to implement the 4 ft shoulder on the south side. According to Vermont state standards, urban and village arterials do not require a certain shoulder width for roadways that do not have curbing, so a shoulder on the north side would not be required for the preferred alternative. From a traffic calming standpoint, having narrow lane widths is the priority to slow drivers down. If, in design, a one to two foot shoulder on the north side is desired, it should be striped to maintain narrow lane widths.

It seems the road widening should be defined in this narrative, ie - Stage Road currently has a paved width of 21 to 22 feet wide and will be widened approximately 4 feet to accommodate the new typical

With the variable widths in the existing condition, widths will be determined by survey to specify the necessary widening required during the design phase. Here, the desired travel lane and shoulder width are specified.

We spoke briefly about possibility of budgeting for a closed drainage system in the village, should that be mentioned in the preferred alternative, possibly added as a modification. ie.. closed drainage system may be deemed necessary during final design and therefore has been budgeted into the preferred alternative.

Language about the potential drainage system was added to the report and costs were carried in the estimates.

I think the widening here will be more like 3' or 4' when considering the shoulder on north side.

Removed the callouts that said sliver widening 4 feet to allow for appropriate widening during design based on survey and desired lane and shoulder widths.

Prosper Valley

Updated graphic with correct name.

See previous comment regarding option for potential two way on Pomfret Road, one way on Library Street.

See response above.