

To: Thea Gaudette, TAC

Date: 8/9/13

Company: Town of Monkton

No. of Pages: 3

From: David Raphael

Re: Meeting Summary

attachment/enclosure

Local Concerns Meeting Summary

On June 27th, 2013 the ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee held a Local Concerns Meeting to gather public input from the residents of Monkton on the Monkton Ridge Complete Streets project. The meeting was held at the Monkton Central School on Monkton Road. Approximately 20-25 residents attended the meeting which was lead by LandWorks with input from Resource Systems Group (RSG). The evening's agenda included the presentation of a draft Project Purpose & Needs Statement (see sidebar below), an overview of the project, and a presentation of the study process and preliminary findings followed by a 30-minute group workshop session. The groups were given the following tasks/questions to guide their discussion:

Project Purpose & Needs Statement (Draft):

Monkton Ridge serves as the municipal center for the Town of Monkton with the Town Hall, Library and nearby Elementary School. As the town grows, and local and commuter traffic increases along the various roads coming in and out of the village area, the functional needs of the community as well as traffic and pedestrian safety concerns must be addressed. This "Complete Streets" initiative is to focus on addressing all aspects of the village streetscape, planning for a park and ride location and identifying short and long term solutions for traffic calming and village enhancement.

- 1) Using the individual maps on the back of this agenda to define the study area, please note where people walk and where they are going. Where do people bike in Monkton Ridge Village? Where is there parking?
- 2) Do you agree or disagree with Project Purpose & Needs Statement? Please provide any additions or revisions.
- 3) Would a permanent park and ride location be useful to Monkton residents? If so, where is the best location? Consider things such as vehicle access and egress, a potential bus stop location, and connections to other areas of the village.
- 4) Are there other issues and/or improvements that would enhance Monkton Ridge and make it feel more like village and the road a "Complete Street"? What could be done to make it safer and "calm" traffic?

Following the workshop, a representative from each group presented an overview of their thoughts, ideas and concerns. The key takeaways from the group discussions are summarized below.

Cc:



Memo (continued)



This word cloud provides a visual representation of key word and ideas from the Local Concerns Meeting.

The Village. “Monkton Ridge doesn’t seem like a village to outsiders”. This comment from one participant was reflected in the overall feedback from the groups who provided a broad range of proposed improvements. These include creating a Town Green near the Library, enhancing the village streetscape to promote a sense of place, adding street trees, improving the area in front of the General Store (primarily by redefining the store parking and State Prison Hollow Road alignment), establishing destinations within Monkton Ridge by promoting small business, and by adding visual cues at the gateways that would concurrently identify arrival to the Ridge and serve as a traffic calming tool. Developing a Park & Ride in concert with a new ACTR bus stop is also favored by the workshop participants and will, as one participant mentioned, help to establish “a reason for being there”. A key takeaway from the village topic is the need to develop an alternative plan for parking within the village and to provide greenspace at the Library.

Traffic & Safety. A primary concern for the Monkton Ridge area is the volume and speed of vehicular traffic and its implications on the safety of the area. Efforts to calm through traffic were highly supported by workshop participants who mentioned solutions such as neckdowns, bumpouts, blinking lights at crosswalks, lowering the speed limit to 25 MPH, speed radar reduction signs, splitter islands and speed tables. It was also highly recommended that traffic calming solutions begin outside of the village area and, specifically, that traffic calming initiatives should start in the Boro/School area. Many participants also noted the dangerous intersection at the junction of Davis and Silver Street stating that sight lines create a blind corner there. It was also noted that there is a real need to review traffic all the way to the Brennan house. Another location where traffic and safety issues exist is at the Monkton Road/States Prison Road intersection. In this location “the grade is important as well in alignment going to road”. Finally, one participant noted the importance of “avoiding improvements that cause larger problems - to keep traffic moving but slowed down.”



Memo (continued)

Pedestrian and bicyclist networks. The groups identified multiple areas in Monkton Ridge in need of improved pedestrian networks. For the most part this was envisioned by the groups as areas of new sidewalk with corresponding crosswalks. More than one participant noted the importance of good planning to ensure that the “sidewalk goes somewhere” and has a “logical termini”. A sidewalk on the west side of Silver Street from Town Hall to the Davis Street intersection is an important area of concern for pedestrians. Participants noted that a crosswalk between Town Hall and the Monkton General Store would be a good location to connect the two areas.

Alternatively, the groups indicated a desire to explore the idea of constructing wider shoulders (no sidewalks) in the village area. It was noted that many people use the roads in Monkton Ridge for running and exercise. This alternative may also appeal to bicyclists, whom participants indicated use the road for recreation and commuting.

There is also a strong desire to emphasize Safe Routes to School as part of this planning project and to ensure that alternatives bear in mind appropriate connectivity to future bicycle or pedestrian routes to the Monkton Central School (approximately 1 mile away). A school-town walkway was mentioned (an earlier proposal for this connection was discussed), and again, participants proposed to increase the width of the roadway to provide on-street facilities. It was further noted that the utility company has cleared an area on the south side of Monkton Ridge Village and participants mentioned the possibility of a gravel path or trail along or near the cleared route.

