

Walkers Brook Drive – Comprehensive Corridor Analysis & Conceptual Redesign

(DRAFT Scope prepared by Green International w/Feedback from Staff)

Scope of Work

The study area will consist of the Washington Street/Walkers Brook Drive corridor between Main Street and the Route I-95 Northbound ramps. In addition, the John Street corridor between Salem Street and Walkers Brook Drive, and the Ash Street corridor between Main Street and the Wakefield town line, shall also be included as part of the study. The three corridors shall be evaluated individually, but also holistically to the extent that they comprise one interrelated traffic system.

Review of Existing Documentation / Coordination with Consultants

Studies relevant to the aforementioned corridors shall be reviewed, including but not limited to the recent Main Street Road Safety Audit, and traffic reports submitted with recent development projects. In addition, the consultant may be asked to coordinate with other ongoing consultant efforts, if applicable (i.e., New Crossing Road Feasibility Analysis).

Traffic counts and analysis

A traffic counting program will be necessary to evaluate existing and future conditions. The counting program shall include 48-hour ATR counts along the corridors and at a minimum, Turning Movement Counts (TMC) at the following intersections (weekday and Saturday):

- Lakeview Ave at Walkers Brook Drive
- General Way at Walkers Brook Drive
- New Crossing Road at Walkers Brook Drive
- Home Depot Driveway at Walkers Brook Drive
- Village Street at Washington Street
- John Street at Salem Street
- John Street at Pleasant Street
- Washington Street at Main Street
- Ash Street at Main Street
- Eaton Street at Salem Street (Route 129)

TMCs collected in 2017 or 2018 are provided in the attached reports.

The traffic count data will be summarized and analyzed to determine project improvements, level of service, and signal warrants. Traffic volumes shall be forecasted to 10-20 years based on known future developments, potential economic growth in the Walkers Brook and New Crossing Road Priority Development Areas (PDAs), and background growth.

Accident Data Collection and Analysis

The latest three years of crash data along the study corridors shall be obtained from MassDOT and the Reading Police Department. The data will be summarized and analyzed to identify current safety deficiencies, evaluate crash patterns, and to develop possible countermeasures to help reduce the amount of crashes that occur along the studied corridors.ⁱ

Right-of-Way (ROW) and Environmental Constraints

Information regarding available ROW, wetlands, and/or other resource areas present in the vicinity of the project corridor will be gathered. Based on the information obtained, identify anticipated ROW and permitting requirements associated with the improvement options.

Conceptual Design Development

After the initial assessment of needs is completed, planning level options to address safety and operational deficiencies shall be developed, which shall include a full exploration of redesign options for critical intersections (i.e. Walkers Brook Drive/General Way, and Ash Street/Main Street, etc.). Advantages and disadvantages for each of the options shall be evaluated and presented to the Town and the community at a minimum of three public/community meetings. It is anticipated that the preferred options and features will be advanced to the conceptual design level. Preliminary construction cost estimates shall also be included as a part of the conceptual design. A second iteration of the conceptual design will be required based on feedback received from the community.

Connectivity to Downtown & Lake Quannapowitt

Multi-modal connectivity (i.e., walking, biking, etc.) between the Town's two primary commercial areas – Walkers Brook and the Downtown – shall also be explored as a tangential part of this analysis. Access for residents and employees of the Walkers Brook Drive area to the Downtown, Commuter Rail and bus stations, and vice versa, is very important. All handicap features in this area shall be inventoried and analyzed. Recommendations for improvements to be made to enhance safety and access between the two areas shall be provided.

In addition, accessibility to Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield shall also be studied, and recommendations for improvements to enhance multi-modal safety and access between Walkers Brook Drive and Lake Q shall be provided.

Study Report

A draft report shall be prepared to summarize data collection, improvement options, evaluation process, and to present recommendations. A final report will be prepared to address comments from the Town and to incorporate feedbacks from the public presentations.

Meetings and Presentations

Meetings on this project shall be classified as follows: (a) coordination meetings with staff, (b) multi-stakeholder meetings, and (c) community meetings. Preparation and attendance at a minimum of five (5) meetings will be necessary to present the study and to obtain input/feedback from the public on the various conceptual design options.

Additional meetings may be required as needed.

ⁱ It has been noted that the stretch of Walkers Brook Drive between New Crossing Road and General Way is a high crash corridor and is on the MassDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) list. One suggestion from the Reading Police Department and the Engineering Division is to add left hand turn arrows (in both directions) along the Walkers Brook Drive corridor.