

## BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

1 FENN STREET, SUITE 201, PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01201

TELEPHONE (413) 442-1521, X-18 · FAX (413) 442-1523

[www.berkshireplanning.org](http://www.berkshireplanning.org) [transportation@berkshireplanning.org](mailto:transportation@berkshireplanning.org)

### LEE AREA TRAFFIC STUDY

2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC MEETING – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2008

6:30 p.m. at the Lee Elementary School Cafeteria

#### COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL/PHONE

**Email:** January 16, 2008

**From:** Becket Resident

Hello,

I would like to comment about the possible Mass Pike interchange that is being considered on Algeria road in Becket. Living on Bonny Rigg Rd and driving Algeria on a daily basis, I can attest to the fact that these are country roads, the layout and size of these roads are not suited for the large increased volume of traffic that would come with a Mass Pike interchange. Of course the traffic would also have a significant negative impact on the vacation communities that surround these roads. People who buy homes in Becket do it mainly for one reason, the quiet natural beauty of the area.

The constant drone of traffic would have a severe impact on that beauty and the quality of life we now enjoy.

**Phone Call:** August 27, 2008

**From:** Great Barrington Resident

“Each town should map out their own loop bus route. Loop buses that continue on a circular route through each town would decrease congestion. These loop buses should run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and should be located so that no home is more than 1 mile from a bus stop. This would make the buses more accessible. There should also be taxi services at bus stops so that people can take a taxi after they get off the bus if their destination is not on the bus route. Increased bus services are the solution to decreasing traffic congestion in Lee.”

**Email:** August 27, 2008

**From:** Stockbridge Resident

1. Traffic congestion on Main Street of Lee cannot be a serious concern as evidenced by the backups deliberately caused by the Fire Department's "Toll Collections" for a charitable cause.
2. There is no statistical evidence to suggest that safety is an issue on Main Street. It should not be cited as a reason for the road changes.
3. The estimate of doubled truck traffic is for the entire nation. It is no doubt driven by rapid development in the Southwest, and is inappropriate for Western Mass. This should not be cited as a factor in the study.
4. The Mass Turnpike Authority has recently stated, in writing, that an interchange on Route 7 is not to be considered.
5. Impact on residential properties should consider not only how many structures are affected but also the zoning of the area. I believe that all existing interchanges are in areas zoned commercial.
6. Impact of high intensity lighting associated with an interchange extends far beyond the few hundred feet criteria that was suggested for impact determination. Similar lighting often exists in commercial zones where it is less of a problem.

7. The problem (if it is one) exists in Lee because that town sought to host the Turnpike interchange. "Gateway to the Berkshires" was the slogan I recall. The "problem" will not be solved by relocating the interchange. The problem will simply be moved to a different place. Any "solution" should be implemented within the town of Lee.

**Email:** August 27, 2008

**From:** Stockbridge Resident

First off I'd like to say Thank You for your time and all the information you have made available to our communities. I was at the meeting tonight and thought everything was well presented. I found the information available on the website to be very informative as well. I do think emotions were running high at the meeting and that isn't always helpful. It shouldn't ever get to the point of being a petty dispute between towns.

I think the solution to this traffic problem will be solved with the option that has the least overall impact environmentally, and residentially whichever option that is. The information gathered in these impact studies seems to be significant and I think common sense will prevail.

**Email:** August 29, 2008

**From:** Stockbridge Resident

Dear Planning Board,

Why was the only logical solution to the traffic problem in Lee and surrounding environments dropped??!  
Forget about Route 7 and the proposed alternatives.

Instead concentrate your efforts to connect Route 8S to Route 8N with an appropriate exit from the Turnpike!!

There is NO Exit between 2 and 3, which runs about 30 Miles!!! It's more than necessary to have one. And it makes sense to change the traffic pattern AWAY from Lee, Stockbridge and Lenox!!!!

A parallel north-south road to Route 7 would immediately ease the traffic congestion in Lee and solve a lot of problems.

Good luck

**Email:** September 9, 2008

**From:** Lee Resident

You all need another alternative. I suggest you recommend building pedestrian bridges across main st to eliminate the real cause of the congestion. Then look at it again in 2020. (if you are really worried about 2030). As long as pedestrians cross the streets you will never speed up the time it takes to get through Lee. There is no other logical solution.