

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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LEE AREA TRAFFIC STUDY

3RD PUBLIC MEETING – JANUARY 21, 2009

COMMENT FORM RESPONSES

What are your thoughts on specific recommendations?

- “I think the idea of a truck route (posted with arrows) on Route 20N to Lenox bypass and from the Lenox bypass Route 7S to 102E deserves further study.”
- “Somewhere in your files there is a copy of a letter that my father (George Perkins) wrote to the Berkshire Eagle in 1977 opposing the then recommendation for a bypass similar to the present ones. Our family has owned property on Devon road since 1774 (Brookside Farm). I was baptized under the oak tree out front. My roots are in the soil! I still own 100 acres and lease one of the fields to the High Lawn farm. Like the majority of people (not truckers), I feel that this lovely area should be left alone. Maybe option 1 could include cutting the corner at Main and Center.”
- “It was very clear by the close of the 3rd public meeting that the majority were not happy with any of the four proposals still in play. That being the case, I believe it would be most prudent to leave the traffic flows as they are now and hope for a lessening of truck traffic through downtown Lee.
As I commented during the Lee Selectmen’s meeting on January 21st, this nation has been binge-building roads and then widening them for some 90 years. Since the late 1970s, the major rationale has been to “reduce congestion” but we never do. The traffic just grows to fill up the added capacity. We need to find other solutions for how to move both freight and passengers in this region or we will start looking like Westchester County, NY or DuPage County, IL.
I attended both Lee meetings and watched the Stockbridge meeting of January 6th on TV. I want BRPC to know I have a tremendous amount of respect for Mr. Nat Karns. He has worked tirelessly on this issue. He is an excellent presenter and he has taken a great deal of undeserved flack from some and through it all he has maintained his composure and the ability to laugh at himself and circumstances. Berkshire County is fortunate to have him working for us.”
- “I favor improving Lee Main Street with lights, etc. The few minutes in travel time doesn’t make enough difference to spend a lot of money on while impacting the natural environment. Thank goodness you have eliminated the Becket route. We do not need to add a big highway through that ecosystem.”
- “Do not build new roads and avoid adding an exchange in Lee. One exchange is enough. The West Road area is rural and beautiful. High Lawn Farm is a central attraction for foliage and maintaining a rural draw for tourism. Widen and improve existing roads to minimize impacts. 20 needs traffic improvements already.”
- “A newer, wider road would damage the rural character of Lee or Stockbridge. A lot of businesses depend on this quality – it draws people to the area. People from Lee, Stockbridge and Lenox depend on the revenues from their businesses – hotels, restaurants, bed & breakfast rooms, resorts, etc. and this would be compromised. You are ruining our quality of life in order to save trucks a few minutes! West Stockbridge seems the sanest solution – even if it takes trucks a little longer.”
- “It makes perfect sense to consider the new exit (Alternative 5/10) to alleviate the truck traffic in Lee. This is the only viable alternative.”
- “Any additional interchange/off ramp will only negatively affect truck traffic and congestion. At least one traffic light in or near Lee will break the flow for side street access. Long term: we must look at rail and light rail alternatives. We need to lead and not follow the nation on this.”
- “I strongly feel there needs to be a joint meeting of Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge. Also, what about other local towns who will be impacted, such as Tyringham. Please refer to my written letter that I submitted for the record. I am aware that this study is about traffic/trucks but the bigger question of rail use should be considered. Please put a copy of the information at the Lee and Stockbridge libraries so it is available and inform us when you do this.”

BRPC Recommendations to Carry to an Environmental Impact Study	Tally
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation Systems Management (TSM) improvements along Route 20 from the Mass Pike to the Route7/Route 20 intersection 	2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bypass on west side of River – from Route 102 northward to Park Street to Laurel Street at the Summer Street intersection, including TSM improvements to Route 20 northward to the Route 7/Route 20 intersection 	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New exit in the area between the travel plaza (West Road) in Lee and Route 7 in Stockbridge 	1

6 comment forms were submitted at the Public Meeting.

3 comment forms were submitted by mail after the Public Meeting.