Ridge Road Traffic Calming Project

Project Timeline Outreach

Date: June 27, 2018

To: Fellow Staff and Public Outreach

From: Mark Austin, PE, Town Engineer

The Town of Hamden is nearing the conclusion of the hardscape construction phase of the Ridge Road Traffic Calming Project along Ridge Road. The Town through our contractor, V&F Paving, will complete installing raised islands and sidewalk ramps in accordance with the study on Friday June 29, 2018.

Pavement markings will be installed by a separate specialty contractor the week of July 9th weather permitting.

There have been many questions about the traffic calming project and we hope to be able to answer a few questions with the following information.

Speed has been a concern on Ridge Road since at least 2011. During a November, 30th, 2011 public hearing about a traffic study of Spring Glen and Whitneyville at the Miller Center in Hamden, representative from the Town of Hamden, SCRCOG, Spring Glen, Whitneyville, and the general public testified of traffic concerns on the report and also stressed concern about high speeds coupled with bicyclists and pedestrians on Ridge Road (page 6, Hamden East-West Transportation Study, April 2012).

This particular project started in 2015 and 2016 with many concerns about speed on Ridge Road between Davis and Hartford Turnpike. The Traffic Authority commissioned a report from an engineering firm which specializes in engineering traffic solutions. Our traffic consultant Parsons Brinkerhoff prepared a report dated February 2017 and a formal presentation was given on April 26, 2017, received public comment on May 10, 2017, with a follow up presentation on June 14, 2017. The Traffic Authority formally approved the recommendations at the June 14, 2017 meeting.
Ridge Road Traffic Calming Project
Project timeline outreach
The Legislative Council approved the project on September 18, 2017. The approved project is a traffic calming project which a combination of four islands and pavement markings to be used to slow the traffic on Ridge Road. The islands and pavement markings are accepted methods to calm traffic which are similar to other methods being used in New Haven. Traffic Calming is a well-studied practice of traffic engineering.

We understand there are some concerns about bicycles using the roadway. There previously was not a dedicated bicycle lane for Ridge Road, only a very wide shoulder marked by a single white line. Bicyclists have the right to occupy the main travel lane like any other vehicle. Bicyclists and vehicles are required to share the road on all Connecticut roads. Like any other road, the bicyclists would travel within the normal vehicle lane. This would be the same situation as if the bicyclist was to exercise a left hand turning lane. They would occupy the lane like a vehicle and take the turn like any other vehicle. When the lane narrows on Ridge Road, the bicyclist would enter the main lane and travel the lane like most roads in Hamden.

(Source: Traffic Calming Study, Ridge Road Corridor, from Davis Street to Hartford Turnpike, Feb 2017)

The islands will not impede snow removal. The islands will be visible via the signs and their oval shape will allow a curve for the plows to follow. Snow would continue to be pushed into the pole boarder (the grassed area between the edge of the road and the front of the sidewalk) as is current practice. Owners are required to clear their sidewalks regardless how close the sidewalks are to the road. Occasionally a curb will be pushed up into the pole boarder but our drivers take care not to damage private property. If the curb or road edge is pushed up, the Town would repair the damage.

The Traffic Division of the Police Department and Engineering Department worked collaboratively to create a set of plans based on the report that was used to publically bid for the construction services. The island portion of the project was bid and awarded to the low bidder, V&F Paving, of Hamden. The anticipated total cost at time of bidding was approximately $52,500. The final cost will depend on final work installed and the amount of traffic control necessary. The painted markings will be installed under a separate award to a State of Connecticut bid and approved pavement marking contractor.
Ridge Road Traffic Calming Project

Project timeline outreach

The road will be open for local traffic and emergency vehicles at all times; however, some additional delays can be anticipated for local traffic during the final pavement markings during the week of July 9th, 2018. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and look forward to the project being completed.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Hamden Engineering Department at (203)-287-7040. We would be happy to answer any other additional questions you may have about this project.