

## Connectivity Update

### January 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting

Hi everyone, I am unable to attend this meeting and wanted to pass on info I've acquired in talking to the Sunapee Highway Safety Committee chair and the Chief of Police, Neil Cobb.

Officer Levasseur researched all accidents both involving pedestrians and vehicles on route 11 between the intersection with Jobs Creek Rd/Dewey Beach Rd and the intersection with Winn Hill Rd (1-1-2015 and 1-15-2025). Their comment was that "historically the accidents have been relatively low".

Route 11/Pizza Chef/Lake Sunapee Marine = 10

Route 11/Evans Mart/Dunkin/Sugar River Bank = 6

Route 11/Main St/ Lower Main St = 5

Route 11/Highway Garage = 2

Route 11/ Sargent Rd = 2

Route 11/Jobs Creek Rd/Dewey Beach = 2

Route 11/Route 103B = 1

Route 11/Winn Hill Rd = 5

Total 33

The Highway Safety Committee was established a little over a year ago and is made up of the Hwy director, Mike Martell, Police Chief, Neil Cobb, John Galloway, Fire Chief and two Sunapee Residents. They are working on numerous issues our committee has identified and I urge all of you to review their committee minutes online for last year but particularly for Dec. 4 th 2024.

That meeting was attended by Mr. Lambert, Bureau of Hwy Safety, DOT, Lee Beronas, State Traffic Engineer DOT, Chris Turgeon, District 2 Engineer DOT,

Meghan Butts, Executive director, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee region Planning Commission, 2 other UVLSEPC members, And Mr. Edwards, Assistant Commissioner, NH Dept. of Safety.

Their discussions involved the following:

- Georges Mills intersection and Route 11

- Blinking stop signs

- Lowering the speed limit

- Additional signage

- A roundabout

- Additional crosswalks

- Four way stop

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region Planning Commission shared traffic count figures. Recommendations by committee members to do road safety audit to address solutions. DOT Office of Hwy Safety has allocated additional funds to the town of Sunapee this year for enforcement and speed control apparatus. Sunapee Hwy Committee is addressing safety issues/crosswalk at Fenton's Landing.

I have requested and been invited to attend their next meeting on march 4<sup>th</sup>. I would be happy to bring any questions our committee has regarding safety issues we are discussing.

Further discussion with Chief Cobb revealed the following information the Town has addressed with the State DOT. Requests were made by the Town to move the speed limit signs, 30 mph up Rt 11, prior to Mt Royal Academy. The State refused, stating the school land was not on Rt 11.

Roundabouts in Newport and New London, were paid for by the Town.

District 2 of DOT presently has no funding, is short on staff(down 42 truck drivers) and still needs completion of Rt 11 wash/out project.

Rt 11 is a major truck route and the State protects the speed necessary for trucks to operate on it. New London did not have conflict with roundabout request as Rt 89 was an alternative for truckers. Sunapee's portion of Rt 11 does not have alternative. Apparently an engineered study was done for a roundabout on Rt 11 at one time. I will research this and present findings at our Feb. meeting.

Chief Cobb recommended the following web site for those interested in this subject: NH DOT Traffic info

[www.dot.nh.gov/about-nh-dot/divisions-bureaus-districts/traffic/traffic-data-and-information](http://www.dot.nh.gov/about-nh-dot/divisions-bureaus-districts/traffic/traffic-data-and-information)

(yes traffic is repeated twice)

I hope all of this is helpful as you proceed with your discussions. I asked Chief Cobb what could be most effective in the short term for Rt 11. We discussed designated sidewalks going along Rt 11 from the corner of Main St up to the ball fields, painted crosswalks at appropriate places, as well as painted parking spots. Also flashing signs to indicate crosswalks will slow traffic down.

Anyone on our committee good at Grant writing?

Look forward to seeing all of you in Feb.

Respectfully,

Kathy Meyer