Department of Transportation State Project No. 0054-0087 Roundabout Improvements at Route 4 and Route 63 Town of Goshen

Public Informational Meeting July 30, 2025 – 7:00 p.m. 42 North Street (Goshen Center School Gymnasium)

Representatives Present:

CTDOT - Highway Design

Scott Bushee – Principal Engineer - scott.bushee@ct.gov – (860) 594-2079

Andrew T. Esposito – Project Engineer – Andrew.Esposito@ct.gov – (860) 594-3337

Joseph A. Paduano – Design Engineer – joseph.paduano@ct.gov – (860) 594-3409

Joseph D. Arsenault – Project Manager – joseph.d.arsenault@ct.gov – (860) 594-3471

Nicholas S. Willey – Design Engineer – Nicholas.Willey@ct.gov – (860) 594-3412

Benjamin M. Flower – Design Engineer – Benjamin.Flower@ct.gov – (860) 594-3017

CTDOT – Rights of Way

Malcolm C. Thomas – Property Agent – <u>malcolm.thomas@ct.gov</u> – (860) 594-2382

CTDOT – Traffic Design

Ed L. Brown – Project Engineer – ed.brown@ct.gov – (860) 594-2720

CTDOT – Landscape Design

Susan L. Fiedler – Project Landscape Architect – <u>susan.fiedler@ct.gov</u> – (860) 594-2086 Madeline R. Schad – Design Landscape Architect – <u>madeline.schad@ct.gov</u> – (860) 594-3307

CTDOT – Public Involvement

Shanice A. Rhule - Public Involvement - Shanice.rhule@ct.gov - (203) 727-2956

Presentation & Open House:

At 6:30 p.m. Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) representatives were available to answer questions about the project during an open house prior to the presentation. Three stations were set up displaying the proposed design and existing conditions with a fourth station displaying proposed landscaping.

At 7:00 p.m. Mr. Joseph D. Arsenault called the presentation to order. There were approximately 65 attendees at the meeting. First Selectman Todd Carusillo spoke to the audience and voiced his support for the project. Mr. Andrew T. Esposito opened the presentation by introducing himself and the representatives from the CTDOT. He then explained the Title VI Civil Rights Act and encouraged attendees to take an optional survey that is available on the project website.

Mr. Esposito then provided background information about the existing roadway conditions and lack of pedestrian facilities. Mr. Esposito presented the existing speeds and crash history of the intersection. Mr. Esposito explained the importance of improving intersection visibility and pedestrian connectivity.

Mr. Joseph A. Paduano then presented the proposed design for the project. He showed the proposed design overlayed on the existing intersection. Mr. Paduano then went over what features are included in a modern roundabout, the safety benefits of a modern roundabout, and presented renderings of the proposed condition. Mr. Paduano displayed the design vehicles that the proposed roundabout would accommodate and explained how drivers should safely navigate a modern roundabout. Mr. Paduano explained the safety benefits of a modern roundabout compared to other intersection types. Mr. Paduano also presented the proposed pedestrian facilities designed to improve pedestrian connectivity and safety.

Mr. Malcolm C. Thomas then described the CTDOT rights of way acquisition process. To end the presentation, Mr. Esposito presented examples of rotaries that have been converted to modern roundabouts in the state and their successes. He then went over the schedule and the estimated construction cost. After the presentation, the audience was directed back to the stations for Q & A.

Public Comments:

- Attendees expressed their support for including sidewalk facilities around the intersection and extending it to Goshen Town Hall.
 - Some residents stated this would help promote economic development in the area.
- One attendee questioned the need for pedestrian facilities in this area, and suggested investigating how many people walk through the intersection currently.
- Representatives from Fay & Wright Excavating Inc. explained that they frequently
 navigate through the intersection with permitted oversize and overweight vehicles, and it
 was critical to their business that the proposed intersection improvements accommodate
 their vehicles. They explained that they were not opposed to the project, as long as the
 design would allow for them to continue to use the intersection to transport their large
 loads.
- One resident stated that double trailer semi-trucks use the intersection frequently.
- Some business owners within the project limits asked about access to their property during construction and general impacts.
 - The Design Team stated that property access will be maintained during construction.
- Some attendees questioned the need for a roundabout, stating that speed bumps or rumble strips would also be effective traffic calming measures that would cost less.
 - The Design team expressed the safety benefits of a modern roundabout design and why this would be a more effective way of improving safety.
- Attendees expressed that the grade of Route 4 is very steep and presents a safety concern with the lack of visibility.
- A resident, concerned about the amount of money for this project, thinks a typical
 intersection would be better because "it has more visibility." He wants more crash and
 speeding data to validate this work and went on to say that no one was killed at this
 intersection.
 - The Design Team showed the effectiveness of a modern roundabout design in increasing safety verses a typical intersection and expressed the need for proactive measures against injury and fatality risks.

- One attendee was concerned that trees in the center island will block the sight line to the other roundabout approaches.
 - The Design Team explained that this was intentional to keep driver focus on vehicles to their left that they should yield to and not be distracted by vehicles entering on the opposite side of the intersection.
- One attendee wanted to make sure there was sufficient signage for the intersection.
- Some attendees are concerned about public literacy of roundabouts.
- Most attendees approved of the project and applauded the measures taken to improve safety at the intersection.
 - Several attendees said that people speed through the rotary which makes it unsafe for all users.
 - The resident of a house adjacent to the intersection, that was struck by a car
 operating the rotary, is concerned the same could happen again if nothing is
 done to fix the rotary.
 - A long time Goshen resident commented that the rotary used to work, but in recent years she has had a heightened fear of being involved in a crash. She's excited for the project and feels that "Goshen needs this upgrade" and cited the roundabout in Killingworth as a good example.
 - Several attendees described times they had driven through the rotary and had nearly been involved in a crash. Residents who live within earshot of the rotary described frequent screeching noises and yelling coming from the intersection.

Conclusion:

The CTDOT representatives encouraged the attendees to submit comments through phone, e-mail or by mailing in the comment form in the handout. For more information about the project, Mr. Esposito directed the attendees to the handout, which had a link to the project website. It was explained that the comment period would run for two weeks, until August 13, 2025. Overall, the meeting was well received by the attendees and finished at approximately 8:00 p.m.