

Notes From the Route 11/26 Intersection, Poland/Mechanic Falls Road Safety Audit

Date of Site Visit/Team Meeting – 4/15/08

Participants at the site visit and/or the office meeting:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Shawn Damon	Citizen
Joan Walton	AVCOG
Steve French	Mechanic Falls Water Dept.
Chris Wilson	Mechanic Falls Water Dept.
John Hawley	Mechanic Falls Town Manager
David Stimson	Mechanic Falls EMA
Fred Sturtevant	Mechanic Falls Fire/Rescue Chief
Dana Lee	Poland Town Manager
Mark Bosse	Poland Fire/Rescue Chief
Jeff Goss	Mechanic Falls Police Chief
Charlie Sheehan	CN Brown Company
Bob Pomerleau	Belanger Realty
Terry Pomerleau	Belanger Realty
Linda Heaward	Electro Static Technology
Al Godfrey	TMSI Engineers
Chris McKenna	Nestle Waters/Poland Spring
Marie Lizotte	Eggcettera
Jim Mansir	MaineDOT (Project Manager)
Matt Philbrick	MaineDOT (Project Scoping)
Duane Brunell	MaineDOT (Safety Office/RSA moderator)

Summary of Activities:

Group first met at site and discussed the overview of what we hoped to accomplish through a Road Safety Audit (this was to be an information gathering and sharing session) and discussed safety issues at the site. We then moved to the Poland Town Office to further discuss key issues and concerns and review a conceptual redesign of the intersection.

Core Safety Issues

- **Visibility** due to: Road curve, parked vehicles (including trucks) at businesses, and snow banks.
- **Speed** particularly south bound on Route 26. Police report that this is a constant problem.
- **Confusion** of drivers. It was noted that about 80% of the crashes involved drivers not from the local area.

See last page for **crash history** since 1989.

Al Godfrey and Jim Mansir presented a concept drawing of a redesign plan for the intersection. Various considerations were brought up by the group related to issues and aspects to be considered, such as:

- ✓ Improving (limiting) vehicle access to some businesses – Eggcettera has already closed one of its driveways.
- ✓ Keeping vehicles that park at area businesses from blocking line of sight.
- ✓ Winterbrook Road (the 5th leg of the intersection) presents some challenges. It is a corridor carrying Poland Springs truck traffic – near future projections are 40 loads a day and there will be some decrease in fueling activity at this intersection's Mobile station. Does relocation of the road make sense?
- ✓ School bus traffic. There was one reported crash involving a school bus at this intersection.
- ✓ School pedestrian traffic. May not be as much pedestrian traffic up to the Big Apple store with there now being other choices available to the south.
- ✓ Summer camp traffic through the intersection.

Chief Goss echoed the crash causes noted above, and that the basic crash codes on the police crash report forms could not fully capture the complexity of the crash stories. He saw speed as a key issue and said he could write speeding tickets all day at this intersection.

MaineDOT's plan is to follow through on the items listed below in the **Immediate** and **Intermediate** sections below.

Immediate areas to be addressed (in the next few weeks):

- Install oversized stop signs on the Route 11 legs of the intersection and upgrade, as needed, other signs on all legs of the intersection.
- Paint treatments:
 - Repaint stop lines (24" wide) and 'stop ahead' pavement markings on both legs of Route 11.

Intermediate – Develop and construct a safety project to address the following key areas (Aim for end of 2008 construction season completion, or early 2009. A public meeting would first be held - estimated late spring or early summer.):

- **Flashing beacons** at the intersection-
 - Review to make sure maximum size beacons are in place.
 - Install dual yellow beacons in both directions of Route 26, and improve the mounting angles so that in each direction, the intersection is seen well in advance. (Northbound has some obstruction from informational signs, southbound may need to have angle changed slightly)
- **Dynamic Sign** - Install a dynamic warning sign on Southbound Route 26 flashing a warning when vehicle speed is too fast.

- **Lines of Sight** - Work with local businesses to manage parking near roadway that block line of sight of turning/crossing vehicles. Eggcettera has already expressed willingness to further look at options that would enhance safety. Some entrance closing may need to be considered.
- Consider removing the slip lane from Southbound Route 11, adjacent to Eggcettera
- Consider lateral rumble strips on Route 26-southbound, prior to the intersection, as a traffic calming measure.
- Consider delineating Mark's Five Corner Store parking lot from Winterbrook Road.

Long Term Evaluation (Future Project)

Safety performance and future needs will continue to be evaluated at this location. Full signalization will need to be reconsidered if and when warrants are met as well as any proposals to realign Winterbrook Road and realignment of Route 11 approaches. (Traffic Signal Warrant criteria potentially could be met in 5 to 6 years based on traffic projections.) We propose that any further projects at this intersection would need to be included in future MaineDOT Work Plans. However, this project would capture any input gained through the public meeting and engineering processes to assist with the planning of any future work at the intersection.

Your Comments

Please feel free to share any additional comments or suggestions as we move ahead on improvements to this intersection.

Handouts provided at the April 15 Road Safety Audit:

- Summary of Aspects to Consider
- Intersection Collision Diagram
- MUTCD traffic signal warrant guidelines
- Projections as to when this intersection would meet warrants
- Comparison of crash experience at signalized vs. non-signalized intersections

Poland/Mechanic Falls, Intersection of Route 26 & 11

Crash year	Number of Crashes	Fatalities	Incapacitating Injuries	Evident Injuries	Possible Injuries
1989	5	0	0	1	2
1990	6	0	0	0	4
1991	2	0	0	0	1
1992	10	0	1	0	5
1993	5	0	0	0	2
1994	2	0	0	0	1
1995	6	0	0	0	1
1996	5	0	0	1	0
1997	7	0	0	1	5
1998	7	0	0	0	6
1999	7	0	0	0	3
2000	5	0	0	1	0
2001	10	1	0	1	6
2002	3	0	0	0	8
2003	6	0	1	1	4
2004	13	0	0	3	5
2005	5	0	1	3	1
2006	13	0	0	2	7

Duane Brunell
 MaineDOT Safety Office
 May 2, 2008