



In all the world there is only one Essex Junction

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ESSEX JUNCTION CRESCENT CONNECTOR ROAD OVERVIEW

THIS PROJECT WILL CREATE AN ADDITIONAL ROUTE CONNECTING VT 2A (Park Street) WITH VT 117 (Maple Street) AND VT 15 (Main Street).

- **Facilitate regional travel.**
- **Improve local circulation in the Village center.**
- **Improve operations at the Five Corners intersection.**
- **Open up Village center properties to economic development and support employment growth.**

PHASE 1

The new road would intersect Park Street (Route 2A) immediately north of the “Flanders” building and transect the site (close to the northern portion of the rail line) in an easterly direction to cross the main rail line before turning to the north through the Kalanges Site and exiting the site at Maple Street (Route 117) directly opposite Railroad Street. The building of this road would have many benefits, including but not limited to:

- a. Opening up two large sites (in the designated Village Center), that are currently underutilized to economic development. In one case street frontage would be increased from 80 feet to over 300 feet. This road will add significantly to the value of the real estate it crosses or touches. It also makes redevelopment of a large Village Center site possible because of the positive impact on traffic movements.
- b. Creating a means for traffic to continue moving through the Village when freight trains come through. Currently the Chip Train effectively stops all traffic movement when it passes through the Village.
- c. Currently traffic finds the ‘line of least resistance’ through the Five Corners. This creates dangerous situations in residential neighborhoods as cars create ‘rat runs’ through areas to avoid the congested Five Corners intersection. Traffic also crosses the yellow median strip to get to left turn lanes that are inaccessible due to straight ahead traffic backing up beyond the point of access on the legal side of the road.

PHASE 2

Phase Two of this concept envisions closing a small section of Main Street (Route 15) from the Five Corners to a point just south of Railroad Avenue. When this occurs and combined with the Connector Road traffic engineers indicate that there is a potential to reduce the wait time for vehicles at the Five Corners significantly in the PM peak hour. (The Five Corners would become a four way intersection.)

This would have many benefits including but not limited to:

- a. Traffic would move more efficiently through the Village making it a more pleasant place to live and visit, with the attendant economic and social benefits.
- b. The amount of greenhouse gasses emanating from idling cars would decrease substantially. Chittenden County is in danger of falling out of Federal Air Quality Attainment Standards; reducing idling time at one of the County’s most notorious intersections will provide a benefit that will be felt Countywide.
- c. With Main Street closed the intersection itself will be reduced in width making it a less daunting crossing. It will also be a safer crossing as people, cyclists, and vehicle drivers will take less time to negotiate the crossing.
- d. The Five Corners intersection would no longer be a failing intersection.