



TOWN HALL
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002-2351

Disability Access Advisory Comm.
(413) 259-3040
(413) 259-2410 [Fax]
planning@amherstma.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Department of Public Works
FROM: Disability Access Advisory Committee (DAAC)
RE: Eastman Lane/ North Pleasant Street Intersection
DATE: May 19, 2010

At its May 11, 2010, meeting the DAAC discussed design and development issues regarding the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Eastman Lane and North Pleasant Street. The DAAC agreed that the intersection needs improvements, especially to the flow of vehicular traffic and pedestrian crossings. A roundabout would surely increase the flow of vehicular traffic, and therein lies the concerns of the committee:

- Without crossing signals, the DAAC questioned the safety of all pedestrians who would be crossing at the roundabout. The angled crosswalks to improve sightlines and a refuge island between travel lanes do make it safer to cross the street, but without the added measure of a walk signal, the committee was uncertain that vehicles would actually stop for pedestrians (drivers would be too focused on navigating the roundabout).
- The additional crosswalks located approximately 50 meters outside the roundabout, if safer to use by the mobility impaired, are not along the shortest, most direct route from destinations across the intersection.
- The plans indicate that bike lanes will merge from the street onto the sidewalk near the roundabout, and the DAAC indicated that the speed of cyclists, even with wide sidewalks, could pose a danger to pedestrians.

Cc: DAAC Committee Members
Larry Shaffer, Town Manager
Guilford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works
Select Board