

*Route 79, 13A, and Elm Street Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Improvements
Public Meeting Summary
October 14, 2008
Lehman Alternative Community School*

Approximately 35 people attended the first public meeting for this project. The meeting was structured in an open, large group conversation, facilitated by Tim Logue, City Transportation Engineer, and Chris Smith, the project manager from Fisher Associates. The discussion focused on issues, problems and concerns that residents had about the project area and noted a number of possible improvements or enhancements for further study. These are listed below in no particular order. For more information about the meeting or the project, please contact Tim Logue at 274-6535 or timlo@cityofithaca.org.

IDENTIFIED ISSUES

- Cars not stopping for pedestrians crossing Floral in crosswalk
- Confusion between drivers and pedestrians throughout the intersections
- Difficult to see cars as one crosses eastbound over Floral
- Difficult for vehicles to get gap for the westbound left turn from W. State to Floral. Once they get a gap, they are not looking for pedestrians or are traveling fast and have a difficult time with the right turn onto Elm.
- Right turn from Elm to Floral too tight
- Leaving Elm is difficult as there are several directions to look for conflicts
- Crosswalks on Floral too far from State
- Poor sight distance for northbound left turn from Floral to Hector. Traffic can back as there is no room to maneuver, especially if left turner does hug center line and blocks right turn traffic from getting by. Vegetation and bridge railing creating sight distance issue
- Snow isn't plowed on the path under bridge and is pushed from the sidewalk to make a big pile blocking the trail
- Westbound left turn from W. State to Floral difficult for bicycles. Bicyclists will get off and walk to safety cross. The four lane section on W. State is not bicycle friendly

- High traffic during peak hours
- High speeds, especially on Hector / State in both directions
- Parents driving up to LAC to pick up/drop off students increase traffic
- Plantings between Hector and Route 96 have grown in and are a sight distance problem for westbound traffic especially
- How do pedestrians cross from Elm/Floral to north side of 79?
- Difficult to tell if southbound traffic on Hector is going to use the left or right lane on the bridge
- What is actual accident rate for the intersection?
- Large trucks and buses are using intersections: County Public Works and ICSD bus barn are down on Bostwick Rd
- More development in the area (up on West Hill or down Floral Ave) will mean more traffic
- Intersection of West State St, Brindley St, West Seneca St and Pete's driveway is a primary problem
- Cut-through traffic from 96 to 79 using residential streets, like Vinegar Hill, Campbell and Oakwood.
- Pedestrian conditions on Floral need to be upgraded outside the immediate intersection area
- Narrow sidewalk on bridge is right next to traffic. It's five feet wide, but its effective width is like two feet.
- Pedestrian crossing at sunrise can be difficult due to sun glare

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Driver feedback signs to highlight speeding
- Roundabout for Route 79, 13A and Elm
- Large roundabout for 79, 96, 13A, Elm. (reattach some Octopus limbs)
- Create sense of place: neighborhood signs, landscaping, etc.
- Three lanes on bridge with bike lanes on both sides
- Eliminate traffic on Elm at Floral
- Signal could improve safety for pedestrians (ice and backup could be issues for traffic)

- Improve crosswalk markings and signage
- Widen Floral for right turn lane onto State
- Careful coordination if light is selected (several movements all need to work together safely)
- Reduce speed and volume on Hector and West State Street
- New pedestrian bridge further south on Floral to Southwest Area/Cecil A. Malone Drive
- Slow vehicles down farther up the hill on Hector
- Re-align Elm to bring all roads together in one location with a signal or Roundabout
- Separate Elm Street and Floral intersection farther south from State/Hector (potential grade problems)
- Keep on-going costs and energy in mind with any design
- Install light under the bridge, plow all the way down the trail
- Realign four roads so that West State St and Elm Street align and Hector and Floral align; then it would be more like a four-way intersection
- Figure out a good way/place for pedestrians to cross over Route 79.