

## Agenda Summary

August 26, 2019

Agenda Item No. 6-2B

### Barrows Road Speed Discussion

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Summary: Emily Rosenbaum requested this time to discuss with the Selectboard speeding on Barrows Road. For your reference, attached is a Traffic Count Summary taken between 5/29/19 and 6/6/19. It was taken 0.25 miles west of the school entrance. The speed limit is 35mph and it shows the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed at 47 mph. This means that 85% of motorists were traveling at or below that speed and 15% were traveling at a greater rate of speed. In 2013 a speed study was done in the same approximate area and it showed the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed at that time was 43mph.

The original request from Emily was to establish a school zone adjacent to the school to notify motorists and hopefully slow them down. Corey Mack, RSG Transportation Project Engineer, evaluated it to see if it was warranted back in 2013 when the original traffic study was done and I asked him if his opinion might change if we had him formally evaluate it again. He stated, "I don't think our analysis would change. The crashes you forwarded sounded to be in the school lot. We found three crashes on Barrows Road near the school from April 2014 to May 2019. There's no pedestrian presence crossing the road, particularly younger children which is a primary factor for considering a school speed zone. And generally, lowering a speed limit doesn't lower traffic speeds. While the Town could choose to post the section of roadway adjacent to the school as a designated school zone due to the concentration of inexperienced drivers traveling to/from school, I don't think it would address the speed issue along Barrows Road. If you want to lower traffic speeds, I'd recommend radar speed feedback signs and police enforcement." It is worth noting that Vermont law does not permit doubling the fine for speeding in a school zone.

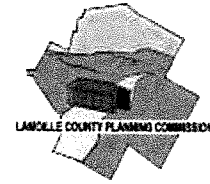
In response to the concerns raised, the Stowe Police Department has installed its temporary radar feedback signs and increased enforcement. If the Selectboard wanted to install permanent radar feedback signs they cost \$4,000 +/- each. Another option is to contract to paint edge striping on both sides of the road each year (\$3,000 +/-) that would vary from 2' to 3' on each side. This would narrow the travel lane which may help slow vehicles down and accommodate cyclists.

Town Plan Impact: N/A

Fiscal Impact: Imbedded in the summary.

Recommendation: Move to instruct staff to maintain increased focus from a speed education/enforcement on Barrows Road, deploy the temporary radar feedback signs at the start of the new school year, instruct staff to contract to paint edge striping, and request LCPC conduct another speed study next year to see if there is any change in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed.

**Lamoille County Planning Commission**  
PO Box 1637, 52 Portland St.  
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**Barrows Road**  
**Stowe VT**  
**Traffic Count Summary**

**Count Time Period**

Date Start: May 29, 2019

Date End: June 6, 2019

**Count Location**

0.25 mile west of school entrance

Barrows Road Stowe, VT

Site Code: 52919

**Data Summary**

**Total Volume:** 26,897 vehicles

**Average Daily Traffic:** 3,500 vehicles

**Mean Speed:** 41 mph

**Speed Limit:** 35 mph

**85<sup>th</sup> Percentile:** 47 mph

**10 Mile Per Hour Pace Speed:** 37 - 46 mph

**Classification:**

**Passenger Vehicles:** 85.04% (This includes the redistribution of non-classified vehicles)

**Single-Unit Trucks:** 14.08%

**Tractor Trailers/ Heavy Weight Vehicles:** 0.88%

## Abby Earle

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**From:** E Rosenbaum <emily.r.rosenbaum@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 10:25 AM  
**To:** Charles Safford  
**Cc:** William Reichelt; Tracy Wrend; Chris Jolly; Donald B. Hull  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Barrows Road  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Hi, Charles. I don't speak for the schools at all. I am just a citizen. I think it should at least go before the selectboard to let citizens weigh in.

On Wed, May 8, 2019 at 9:58 AM Charles Safford <[csafford@stovevt.gov](mailto:csafford@stovevt.gov)> wrote:

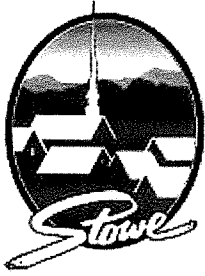
Hi Emily,

Per our earlier conversation regarding school zone signs on Barrows Road, below is the estimated cost to do a new traffic engineering study to determine if one would be warranted. Based on the attached accident data provided by the Stowe Police, he does not believe his initial recommendation that it is not warranted is likely to change. By State law municipalities are required to follow the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and use warrant analysis from a qualified engineer to make decisions regarding speed limits, signage and other motor vehicle laws. Once a warrant analysis is done any change must go through an ordinance amendment process. Based on the accident data, the previous study and his recent feedback, I can't recommend to the Selectboard the expenditure of money for a traffic engineering study for this purpose.

As an aside, I did request the Stowe Police to include the road on their directed patrol and have asked the Lamoille County Regional Planning Commission to do a speed study before school gets out, so that we can get a sense of the current speeds being traveled for context and enforcement purposes.

The School is in not in a densely populated area. This along with inclement weather we experience in Vermont reduces the likelihood of significant pedestrian/cyclist being used as a method of getting to and from school. One thing that could be considered is edge stripping that may help guide motorist and provide some degree of non-protected comfort to pedestrians/cyclist. It would have to be contracted and paid for locally. To do both sides of Barrows Road is estimated to cost \$3,000 +/- . It would leave travel lanes 11' wide and shoulders would vary 2' to 2 ½'. This may also have a traffic calming effect that may help reduce speeds.

Please let me know if you or the school's would like to request the Selectboard consider any of the aforementioned.  
Charles



**CHARLES SAFFORD**  
**STOWE TOWN MANAGER**  
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**(802)253-6137 (FAX)**  
**WWW.TOWNOFSTOWEVT.ORG**

**From:** Corey Mack <[Corey.Mack@rsginc.com](mailto:Corey.Mack@rsginc.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 6:12 PM  
**To:** Charles Safford <[csafford@stowevt.gov](mailto:csafford@stowevt.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Barrows Road

Charles,

Regarding cost to do a speed study, the short (unhelpful) non-answer: it depends. VTrans conducted a tube count in August 2017, showing an 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of 44-45 mph. But this is not during the school session. If you want us to use available online data, then we're talking probably around \$2k. If you would like us to collect data during the school year, the cost will be higher, closer to \$4k.

Regarding a recommendation for a reduced speed limit school zone, I don't think our analysis would change. The crashes you forwarded sounded to be in the school lot. We found three crashes on Barrows road near the school from April 2014 – May 2019. There's no pedestrian presence crossing the road, particularly younger children which is primary factor for considering a school speed zone. And generally, lowering a speed limit doesn't lower traffic speeds. While the Town could choose to post the section of roadway adjacent to the school as a designated school speed zone due to the concentration of inexperienced drivers traveling to/from school, I don't think it would address the speed issue along Barrows Road.

If you want to lower traffic speeds, I'd recommend radar speed feedback signs and police enforcement.

General discussion on school speed zones can be found here:

<https://www.ite.org/pub/?id=e26610b5%2D2354%2Dd714%2D51f1%2Dc266857615f0>

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COREY MACK, PE

Project Engineer