

Town of Falmouth
Public Works Department
101 Woods Road
Falmouth, ME 04105
Ph. - 207-781-3919



Date: December 16, 2014
To: Nathan Poore, Town Manager
From: Jay Reynolds, Public Works Director *Jay Reynolds*
Re: Intersection of Falmouth/Bucknam/Middle Road

As requested, I am providing the following memo with regards to the above-mentioned intersection.

As you know, the Town Council endorsed the application to PACTS to seek funds to reconstruct this intersection to a roundabout. During PACTS' review of the regional applications for intersection improvements, a number of items were identified as potential issues. One being that the roundabout design would need to be a double-lane roundabout to accommodate all traffic movements. When looking at this design conceptually, it was apparent that a double-lane roundabout would increase the project cost to approximately \$1,300,000.00 - \$1,500,000.00. In addition, this design would also result in the need to acquire significant property from businesses and residences in the area. Being that two businesses in the immediate area have small properties and their existing buildings are very close to the right-of-way, Town staff is not recommending a roundabout design at this time.

Since the review by PACTS, the Town has hired Gorrill-Palmer Traffic Engineers to further study the level of service and traffic movements at this intersection. In summary, their findings were that 'the best level of service is forecasted for the alternative that keeps the intersection signalized and modifies the intersection approaches'. The most notable modification to the intersection approaches would be the creation of two lanes eastbound on Bucknam Road, which would be received by two left-turn lanes from Middle Road (southbound). See attached concept drawing.

Town staff is supportive of this finding also because it significantly minimizes the right-of-way impacts to the private properties. Keeping the intersection signalized while providing lane modifications also lowers the project cost from approximately \$1,400,000.00 to \$925,000.00.

At this time, Town staff is recommending that a signalized intersection with lane modifications is the preferred long-term design for this intersection.

With regards to funding, The Town has secured funds for engineering and design only through PACTS. PACTS did not fund the construction of the project and any new PACTS funding would not be available to apply for until 2019. Therefore, if the Town wishes to pursue the construction of this project, the Town will need to establish the funding for construction either through the Town's capital improvement program or other sources.