

Town Administrator
4540 South County Trail
Charlestown, RI -02813



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TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN

Dear Resident:

The Charlestown Public Works Department (CPW) is embarking on a \$1.4 million project for the maintenance and rehabilitation of Burdickville Road. Plans have been prepared by a qualified engineer and funding for the project has already been approved by the Budget Commission, Town Council and by the voters at this year's financial referendum. The project is expected to begin in the spring 2017.

The major project components include:

- Resurfacing 5,750 linear feet (LF) of Burdickville Road beginning at the Hopkinton Town Line to the intersection of Shumankanuc Hill Road
- Improved drainage and replacement of two drainage culverts
- Upgrade the roadway to a uniform 23 – 24 foot travel way (the existing width varies from 20 – 24 foot)
- Provide new roadway base to prevent the pavement edge from cracking and deforming

To see copies of the plans, Charlestown Police Department (CPD) traffic reports and related correspondence please visit the Town's website at <http://www.charlestownri.org/>. Click on Burdickville Road Project on the main page. It is the Town's best judgment that timely repairs and improvement to Burdickville Road will prevent the road from deteriorating to the point where it will require a full reconstruction that will cost far more. In short, this project is analogous to replacing a roof on your house. It is prudent and less expensive to replace it in a timely manner rather than waiting until it starts leaking, causing more damage and costing more money.

Previously an informational meeting was held on August 15th. At the meeting, several residents spoke in opposition to the project. The residents' cited vehicular speeding as a problem and they believe the CPW project will make speeding on Burdickville Road worse. According to a subsequent written petition, it was stated an overwhelming majority of residents were in opposition. In particular, the issue of speeding was raised as causing a potential injury to farm animals, cyclists, exercise walkers and hikers (please see notice - correspondence on website).

It should be noted the Town had completed a similar project on Buckeye Brook Road and speeding was a concern for those residents. Buckeye Brook Road has a posted 25 mph speed limit. The CPD performed a traffic review over a 7-day period that showed after the improvements, the vehicle average speed was 25.9 miles per hour, which required no increased police enforcement (see Buckeye Brook Road Speed Summary/pdf on website). More recently, the CPD also performed a 7-day review on Burdickville Road that showed an average speed of 27.72 mph (see Burdickville Road Speed Summary/pdf on website). The CPD has committed to performing another review after the road improvements and if necessary, take enforcement action should the average speed significantly increase.

In addition, the residents are concerned with potential effects of blasting to their wells and foundations and the destruction of Burdickville Road's rural character. Most recently, three Burdickville Road residents spoke at the October 11th Town Council meeting and have urged the Council to either greatly modify or abandon the project.

Since this project will directly affect you as an abutter or as a resident whose only access is by Burdickville Road, we hope to gather your input on the project and determine the extent of your resistance to, or support for these improvements. The Town is scheduling another public informational meeting for **7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 1st, 2016 in Council Chambers, Charlestown Town Hall**. At the meeting, the engineer will be available with construction plans as well as the CPD traffic reports.

The Town Council would appreciate you taking the time to attend the meeting and expressing your opinion. If you are not available for the meeting, please consider sending your opinion to the Administrator's Office, Town Hall, 4540 South County Trail, by email at Burdickville-Road-Pr@charlestownri.org or leave a message at 401-364-1210. ***If we do not hear from you, we will assume you have no concerns with the proposed improvements.***

Sincerely,



Mark Stankiewicz
Town Administrator