

Balancing Highway Speeds and Community Needs



State/Tribal Transportation Conference – September 2016

Session Overview

Three parts to this session:

- What are the WSDOT considerations?
- What are issues we are trying to address?
- What are some tools we can use to achieve our goals?

Traffic Control Treatments to Alter Driver Speeds

2016 Tribal/State Transportation Conference

Mike Dornfeld

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Setting Speed Limits

- The majority of motorists drive safely and reasonably.
- Careful, competent actions of a reasonable person should be legal.
- Laws are for protection and regulation of unreasonable behavior of the few.
- Therefore, speed limits should generally reflect prevailing conditions.

Engineering Study

- 85th Percentile Speed
- Average Speed
- 10 MPH Pace
- Crash Rates
- Roadway Characteristics and Context

How to get drivers to change behavior

- WSDOT trying a number of treatments

Speed Limit Changes: SR 109, Seabrook

50 MPH 2001



40 MPH 2007



35 MPH 2011



25 MPH 2015



SR 106 Wide Paint Lines



SR 3 at Pickering Road



Compact Roundabout



NC Region: Pavement Marking In Lane

097 Inc 2014: SRMP 175.64 / ARM 160.39



06/23/14
SR# 097-INC
SRMP 175.64

NW Region Zig-Zag Lines SR 9 in Arlington



Electronic Traffic Control Signs



Hardscape Gateways



Lane Narrowing



Getting to the core: what issues are we trying to address?

Understanding the Context

- Who are the users?
 - Thru travel vs community users
 - Modes - pedestrians, bikes, cars, trucks
 - Bus or school route
- Are there too many or too severe of crashes?
- Does the highway speed impact community character?
- Does it impede economic development?

Getting to the core: what issues are we trying to address?

Ways to identify the issues and develop goals for improvement

- Transportation Safety Analysis
 - Collision history
 - Highway safety manual
- Road Safety Audits

The “4 E’s” of safety:

1. **Education** gives drivers information about making good choices, such as not texting while driving, and wearing a seatbelt. Education can also inform people about the rules of the road.
2. **Enforcement** of traffic laws and a visible police presence may deter motorists from unsafe driving
3. **Engineering** addresses roadway infrastructure improvements
4. **Emergency** services provide rapid response and quality of care when responding to collisions

What tools can we use to achieve our goals?

Given funding limitations for large capital projects – what creative measures can we apply?

- Access Management
- Improved crossings and intersections
- Medians
- Community signage
- Tree removal
- Raised planters
- Striping
- Lighting

Examples

Seabrook, Pacific Beach, WA Highway 109

- Users –
 - Pedestrian heavy environment
 - Mix of highway thru travel and local circulation
- Reduced posted speed from 50 mph down to 25 mph in increments over 10 years
- 85th percentile speed today less than 25 mph

Examples

Seabrook, Pacific Beach, WA Highway 109

- Changes implemented
 - Speed radar signs
 - Frontage improvements
 - Lane width reductions
- Master plan
 - Stamped pedestrian intersections
 - Install pedestrian flags at crossings
 - Extend frontage improvements

Examples

Seabrook, Pacific Beach, WA Highway 109

- 3 midblock pedestrian crossings + 2 intersections, within about a quarter mile



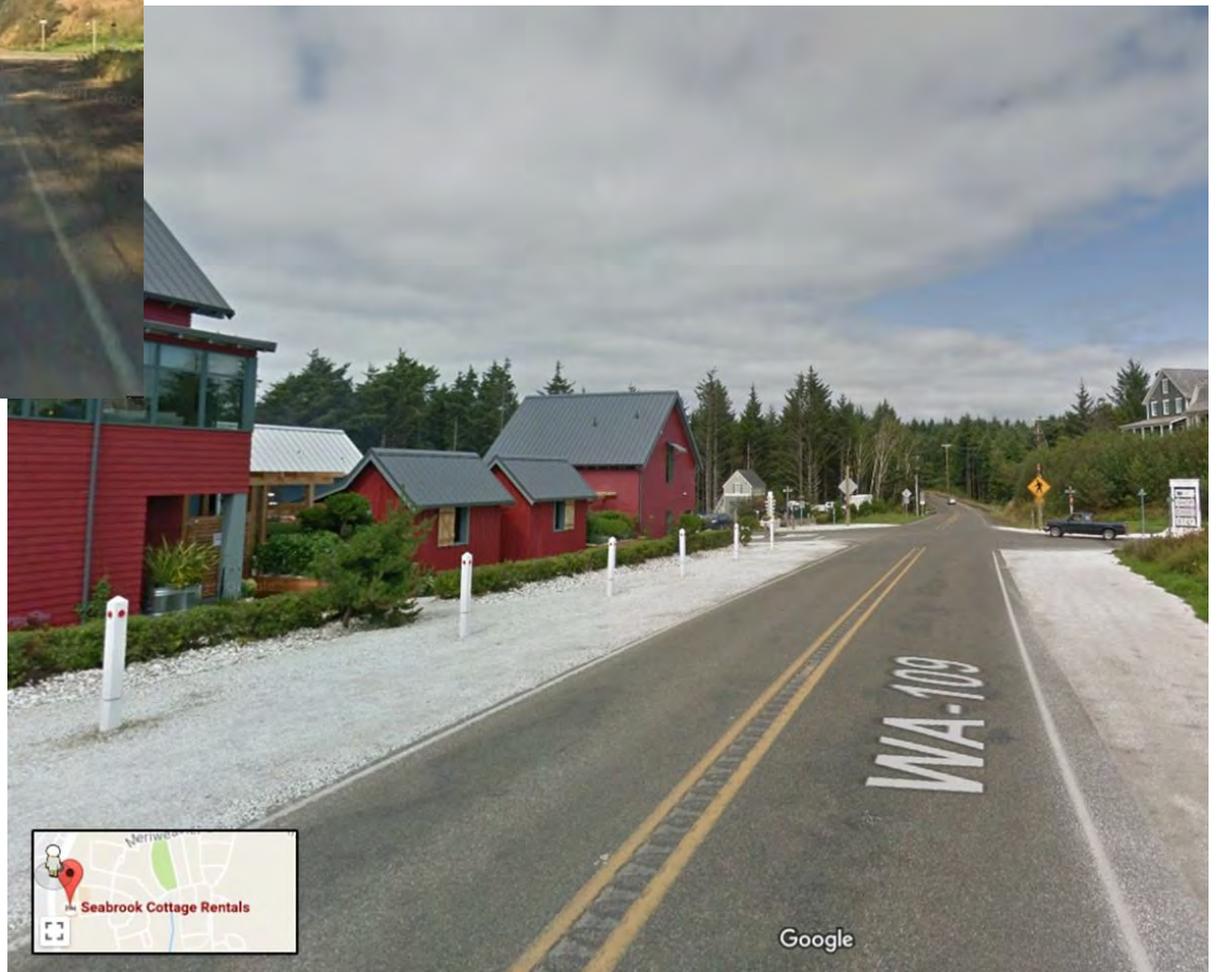
Examples

Seabrook, Pacific Beach, WA Highway 109



Examples

Seabrook, Pacific Beach, WA Highway 109



Examples

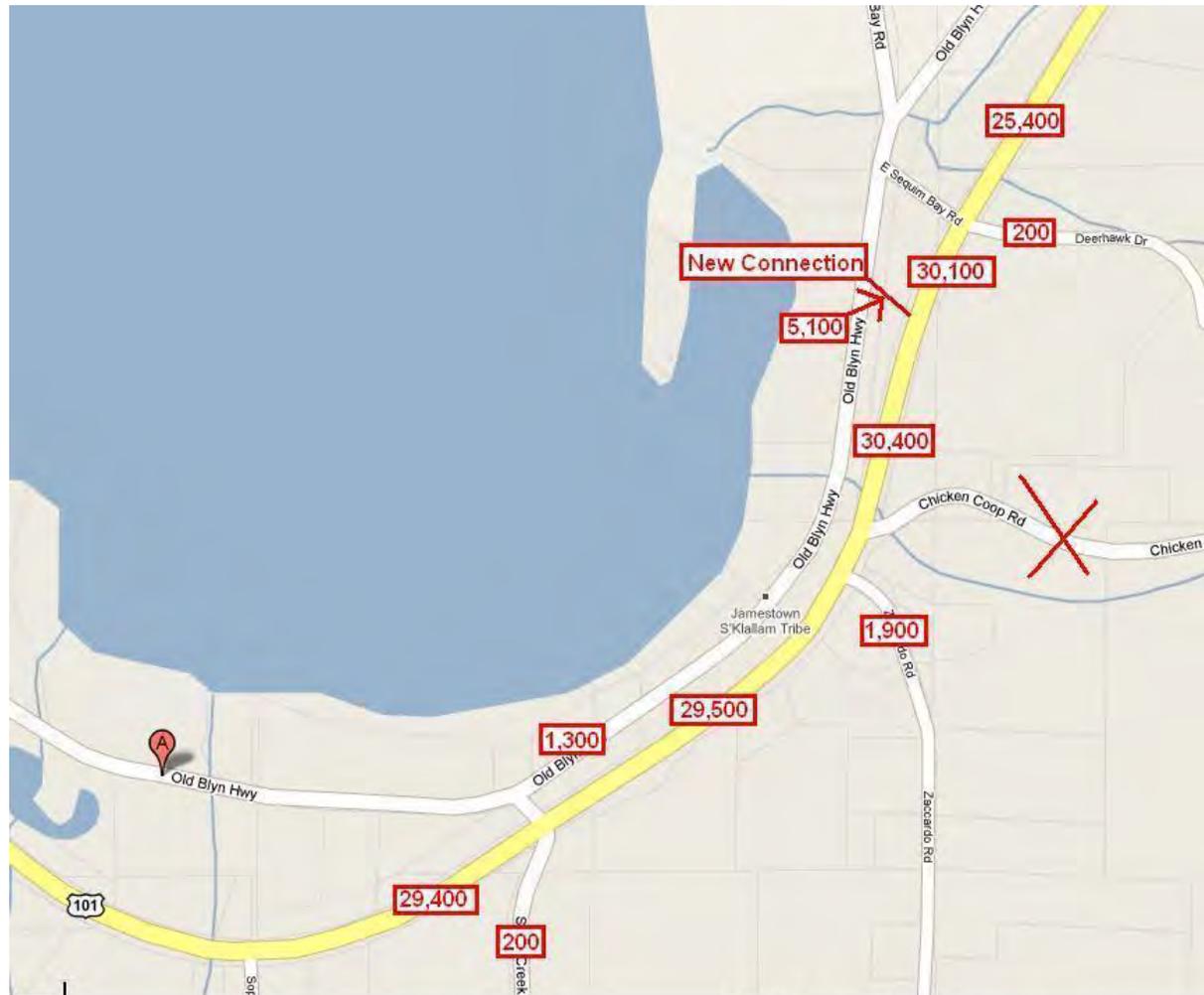
S'Klallam, Sequim, WA Highway 101

US 101 E. Sequim Bay Road Access Improvements

- safety and access concerns on US 101 thru the Tribe's community
- Traditional solutions
 - Build interchange with US101 – High \$50M
- Phased approach
 - Reduce speed limits on US 101 – little to no cost
 - Guardrail and tree removals – low cost
 - Traffic calming measures on intersecting county road – low cost
 - Chicken Coop and Zaccardo Road Realignment –medium cost
 - Future E. Sequim Bay Road connection and closures - medium cost

Examples

S'Klallam, Sequim, WA Highway 101



Attachment 3
Future Average Daily Traffic

Examples

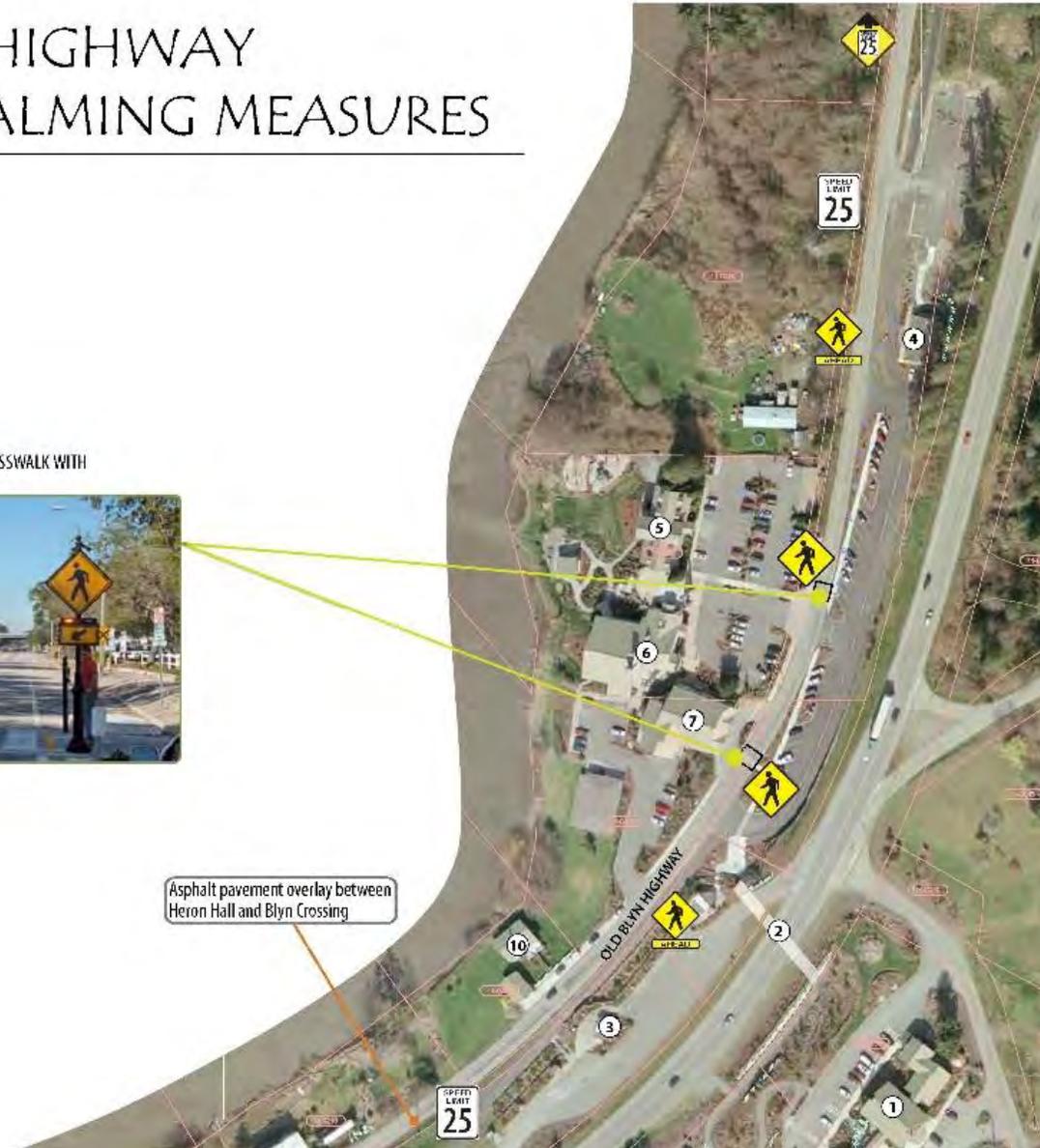
S'Klallam, Sequim, WA Highway 101

OLD BLYN HIGHWAY TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

PEDESTRIAN ACTUATED CROSSWALK WITH
RAPID FLASH LED BEACONS

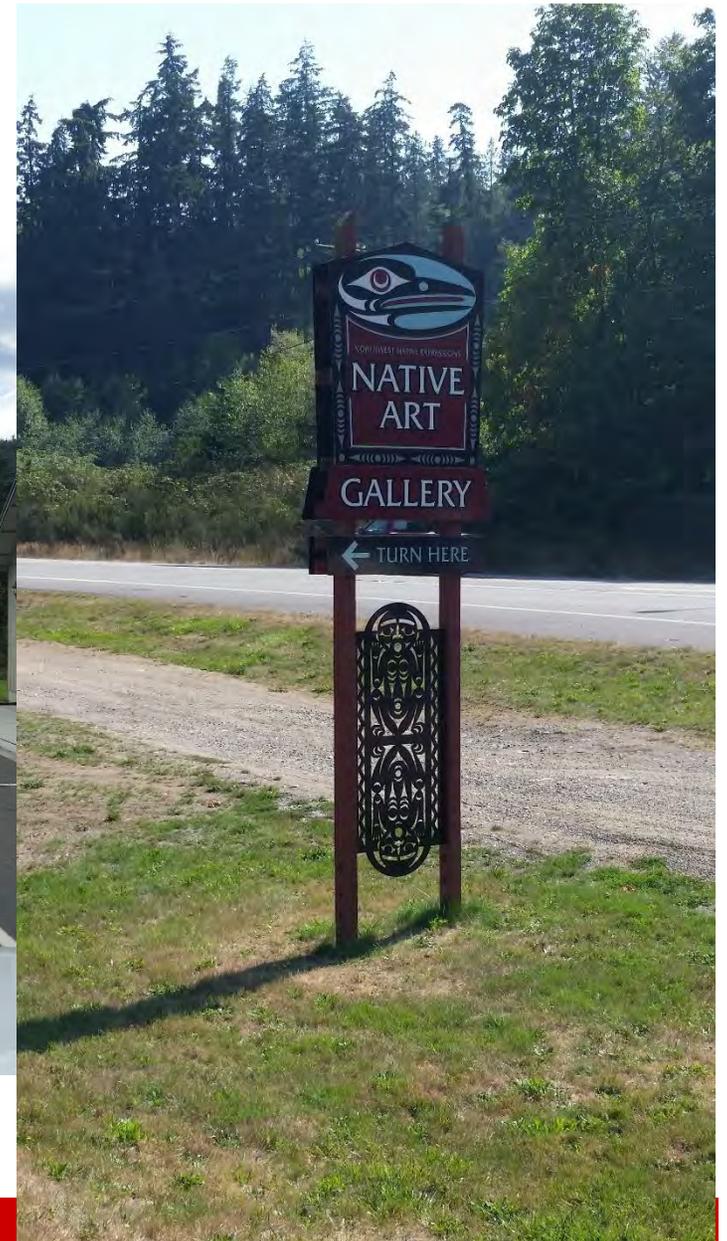


Asphalt pavement overlay between
Heron Hall and Blyn Crossing



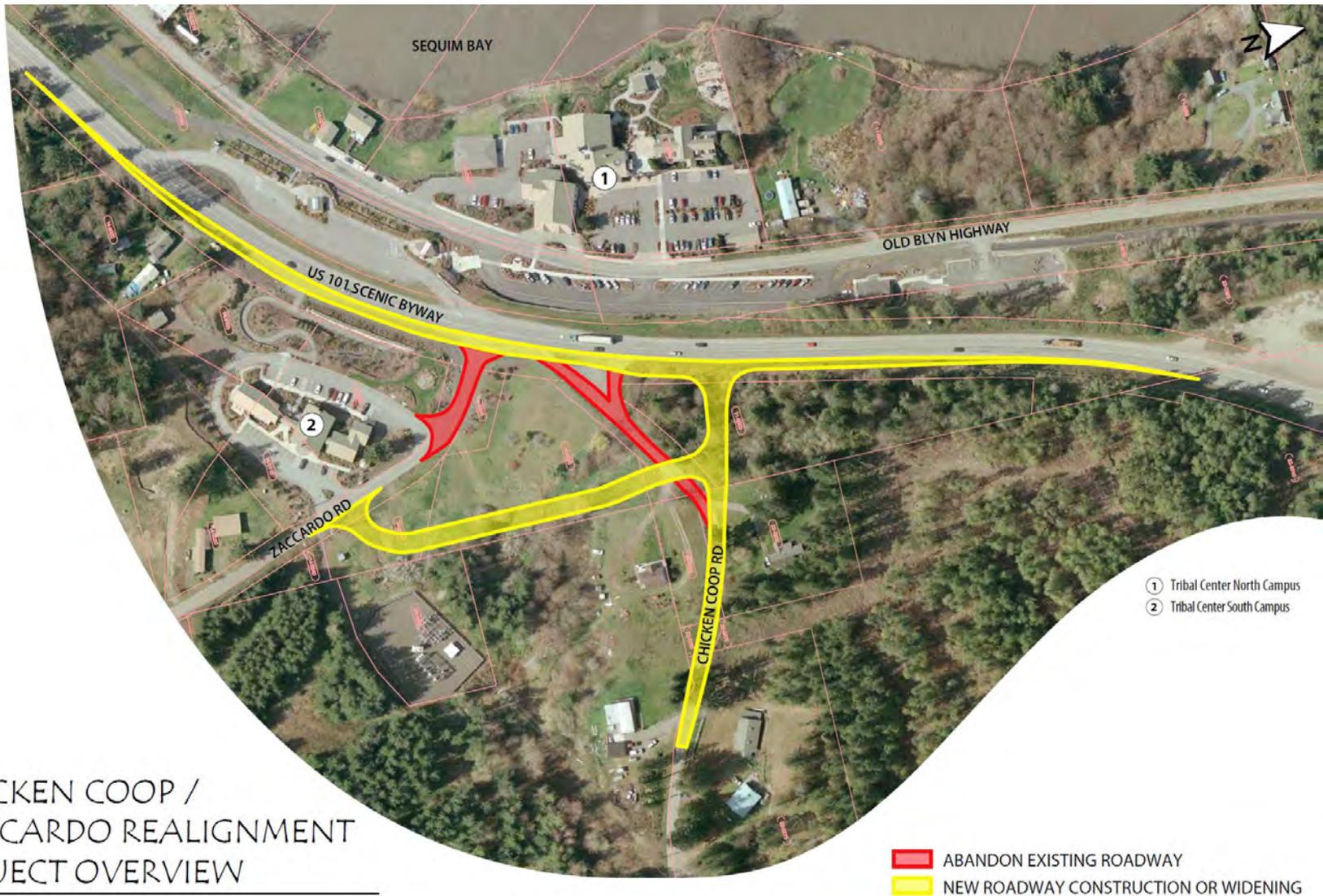
Examples

S'Klallam, Sequim, WA Highway 101



Examples

S'Klallam, Sequim, WA Highway 101



CHICKEN COOP /
ZACCARDO REALIGNMENT
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Examples

Quileute Tribe, La Push, WA Highway 110

- Evacuation route
- National Park access
- Heavy ped use
- School bus route
- Community “main street” and only access point



Discussion and Questions

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