

Town Board Special Meeting

June 22, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting via www.zoom.com (id#: 845-8274-2996 password 536827)

Present: Supervisor Aaron, Councilor Tucker, Councilor McCormack, Councilor Alexander, Councilor Legg, Attorney Smith.

Also Present: Martin Cregg, Bridgett Winkelman, Karen Barkdull, Miranda Robinson

Eastern Gateway Improvements Review and Recommendations: Supervisor Aaron stated to the Board Councilor McCormack and Marty Cregg had done a lot of work on creating recommendation regarding the Route 20 (Eastern Gateway) Improvement Project. Marty Cregg reviewed their report with the Board.

Mr. Cregg reviewed the current situation with the plan for the Eastern Gateway entering the Town of Skaneateles, US Route 20, and what had been accomplished to this point. He stated the Eastern Gateway Committee had conducted fact finding and offered suggestions in 2017, the Western Gateway was completed years earlier. Onondaga County, SMTC and NYS DOT met with Village and Town in 2019 to discuss US Route 20 improvement project which might enable some of the Eastern Gateway suggestions. The Town submitted the 2017 information in December 2019 and in 2020 SMTC responded with thoughts to include in the Route 20 project integrating many of the elements in an estimate form Mr. Cregg stated the work and the estimates are beyond current needs or funding available He stated the Eastern Gateway committee suggested a meeting to decide on a plan for the project and send recommendations back to the SMTC & DOT.

Marty Cregg stated this project would be a joint venture with possible funding from the SMTC (Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council) and the NYSDOT (New York State Department of Transportation). Projects currently planned by the NYSDOT and SMTC are repaving County Line on the west side through the Village to US Route 175. They would improve the infrastructure, shoulders, and roadway, narrow the road to encourage slower speeds, and use curbing to define entry / exits from properties in the HC district. Where possible: integrate with Town proposals to improve Eastern and Western corridors, provide improved traffic marking and signage, reduce swales / ditches with buried piping, create cross walks for safety, provide curbing to define entry / exit points in the HC district and consider the possibility for turn lanes, sidewalks and bike lanes where appropriate.

The NYS DOT asked for the Town to submit their goals for the gateway into the Town of Skaneateles. Mr. Cregg reviewed the following goals submitted to the NYSDOT:

- Purpose: to gain as much synergy as possible between the highway project and further efforts the Town is taking to improve the Route 20 corridor.
- Scope: NYS DOT Route 20 Improvement Project from County Line Road east to the Skanellus Intersection at Route 175
- Vision: The Town's vision is to gradually improve the aesthetics of the traffic corridor along Route 20, providing a visual and physical transition from the agricultural landscape in the Town through to the Village center.

- Goals: The highway resurfacing project is a core component of the Route 20 project, and should focus on safety, efficient flow of traffic, and improved highway aesthetic opportunities. The intent is to achieve an improved highway corridor with engineering upgrades reflecting the impact of the changes in traffic, property usage and pedestrian/bicycle increases over the last 20 years and the age of the current roadway.

Mr. Cregg reviewed the improvements that could be accomplished with infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks, bike paths and current building proximity to the road. Repair and maintenance of existing issues with swales, detention basins, small lots sizes, water and sewer service and moving of power poles and overhead wiring being installed underground.

Mr. Cregg stated the committee asked the NYSDOT to make the following part of their project to connect and jointly develop a program between the Town, Village and New York State DOT to improve and modify the roadway to possibly include development of:

- buried storm water collection lines and remote detention facilities
- establishment a cadence of highway trees in the town to establish a gateway element approaching the village
- explore options to reduce overhead utilities where possible • provide for cyclists and pedestrians pathways along route 20
- evaluate speed limits and adjust to maintain safety and traffic flow both • augment highway lighting to create improved night safety for pedestrians • Provide for ingress and egress from roadways
- support the Town's planning efforts
- improve the experience for residents, businesses, and visitors

Mr. Cregg stated SMTC and the NYSDOT responded they could accomplish all the request at a cost of \$6.12 million dollars.

Mr. Cregg stated he and Councilor McCormack reviewed this plan and discussed the priorities of this project since the cost was amazingly high. He stated the priorities would be:

- Perform the work in stages
- Improve the HC district now, because it has the most traffic and active business destinations
- Look to integrate the IRO district as projects occur in phase 2
- Enroll the landowners and developers with a partnership to achieve success over the long term

Mr. Cregg stated he had been in communication with property owners along this gateway and they agree. This cost should not be all the Town's responsibility, it should be shared with the property owners.

He stated there are options for trees and plantings to work with the current utility infrastructure. Sidewalks could be only installed on one side or section of the road; this would cut the costs down. Additionally, a multi-use trail could be added in the future to continue the walk ability. This could be done in stages.

Mr. Cregg reviewed the total of the NYSDOT plan for sidewalks would be approximately \$570,000. The total approximate cost of trees and planting in the NYSDOT plan would be \$15,500. This cost could be significantly decreased with less sidewalks and plantings that would work equally as well.

Mr. Cregg reviewed the decorative lights proposed in the plan and stated the Highway Commercial district has a number of lighting solutions and new lights will not make much of an aesthetic difference in the Highway Commercial District. If there is no foot or bicycle traffic yet, this could be postponed to the future.

Mr. Cregg reviewed the covered drainage on the road. The southside already has catch basins and the northside needs swales and catch basins installed.

He reviewed the bike lane as proposed by the SMTC. This could be cut down from a 2000' bike lane to a shared multi-use path on either side of the road. This option would be a more cost-efficient plan.

He discussed adding welcoming elements such as banners or flags on decorative poles. These banners could advertise messages such as Town events, Farmers Market, Parks, Graduation, Winter Festivals, and the like.

Mr. Cregg discussed the cost savings the Town Board should consider. The SMTC estimate totaled \$6,120,000.00 and the committee's "Proposal 1" would be \$1,160,4560.00 which included everything except the sidewalk on the northside and "Proposal 2" would be 1,611.652.00 this would add the northside sidewalk and additional drain coverage. *chart attached. SMTC's proposal included at 40% contingency fee for unforeseen engineering and structural issues. These proposals from the committee also have the 40% contingency in place. He stated in his experience this should be about an \$800,000 project with a 10% contingency, but he stated he is not an expert. If we work together with the NYSDOT and SMTC this could be a more realistic and feasible project

He reviewed what should be considered as the next steps:

- Small team to lead, get remaining information, set a date, and choose a path with funding
- Find out what the state will do
 - Budget
 - Is part of the 2023 project
- Decide what the town will own and set the budget
- Create a basic plan for the district:
 - Get estimate from Town Engineering
 - What is on scope and timing
 - Find out what legal / property issues are there
- Develop a specific design and engineering requirements
 - Get graphic design, components and material selection donated
- Integrate physical solution with town zoning plan

- Develop documents for review and approval
- Meet with landowners for buy in and suggestions
- Approve, fund, and implement

Supervisor Aaron thanked Mr. Cregg for the outstanding work he had done on this proposal. She stated the State is planning on starting the paving project by 2022 and it comes down to what they are willing to do for this project. SMTC is the planning portion not implementation. We will have to continue to work with both the State and SMTC and see what they will contribute.

Councilor McCormack stated a lot of this work was done in the 2017 original plan with the previous Board and committee with Mr. Cregg at the lead and thanked them all. He has made some good adjustments to the State's plan.

Councilor Alexander stated she agrees with Councilor McCormack and liked the plan Mr. Cregg presented. She asked about the budget for the Western Gateway project. Supervisor Aaron stated she thought it was about \$380,000. This was a grant with 20% matched by the Town. She stated residents have asked for more sidewalks and this is a good plan. She stated the welcoming messages are a good addition. The Town Park's department is in the process of redesigning all the signage for the Parks with Chase Design and could utilize this messaging platform.

Councilor Tucker stated the Planning Board had been requiring applicants to safe land for sidewalks.

Supervisor Aaron thanked Planning Secretary Karen Barkdull for her help on this committee also.

Councilor Alexander asked if the Town currently has any sidewalks and if so, who maintains them. Supervisor Aaron said we have sidewalks in the Western Gateway and the individual property owners currently maintain them. This could be looked at in the future and maybe contracted or partner with the Village.

Supervisor Aaron stated the key issue is what the State will provide and what funding is offered. This should be one of the Town's goals. Councilor McCormack could reach out to the State for the Town's options with this project.

Councilor McCormack stated the first thing is this plan should be submitted to the State. Mr. Cregg stated we should contact the State regarding their plan for curbing. We should get the information from the State as to what they will provide first before we submit the adjusted plan. Supervisor Aaron stated we should go directly to the NYSDOT.

Engineer Robinson asked if the underground utilities were discussed. There is an asbestos waterline and sewer lines underground in this area. Mr. Cregg stated no, this was not discussed at this time.

Councilor Legg stated the presentation was exceptional and thanked Mr. Cregg and Councilor McCormack. He stated the multi-use paths going into the IRO District is an important addition.

Attorney Smith commented on the sidewalks and maintenance. One option for maintenance is to have a formal agreement with the property owners for maintenance instead of the Town maintaining. There are bike/pedestrian plans that had worked in the City of Syracuse in the university section. The committee could review these plans as an example.

Councilor Legg stated multi-use trails are what SMTC specialized in, they are a good resource.

Budget Officer Winkelman asked if the proposal from the State included engineering fees. Mr. Cregg stated they should assume that is not included.

Mr. Cregg stated this is only a plan at this time. We need to wait and see what the State is going to do in the initial stages of the project when they begin paving this section of US Route 20.


Attorney Smith asked how the Board would consider financing this project, Supervisor Aaron stated this would be a separate discussion when more information is available. There are other projects in the Town also that will be needing funding, and these should be looked at together.

Councilor Tucker discussed the ability for a bike to travel at a high speed on a multi-use trail. Mr. Cregg stated this will be considered when the State looks at this project.

Supervisor Aaron thanked Mr. Cregg for all his work and asked him to continue working with the Board regarding the Eastern Gateway project.

On a motion of Councilor Alexander, seconded by Councilor McCormack and with unanimous (5-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Julie A. Stenger
Town Clerk



Town Board Update

Route 20 Improvements Review and Recommendations

Prepared by Kevin McCormick and Marty Cregg
22 June 2020



Route 20 & Eastern Gateway Improvements

Current Situation

- Eastern Gateway conducted fact finding and offered suggestions in 2017, Western Gateway was completed years earlier
- Onondaga County, SMTC and NYS DOT meeting with Village and Town in 2019 to discuss Route 20 improvement project *which might enable some of the Eastern Gateway suggestions*
- Town submitted the 2017 information in December 2019
- 2020 SMTC responded with thoughts to include in the Route 20 project integrating many of the elements in an estimate form
- the work and the estimate are beyond current needs or funding available
- We suggested a meeting to decide on a plan for the project and recommendations back to the SMTC & DOT



Route 20 Project

Joint venture with SMTC & NYSDOT:

- Repave the Route 20 roadway in 2023:
 - County line on the west through village to Rte. 175
 - improve the infrastructure, shoulders and roadway
 - narrow the road to encourage slower speeds
 - Use curbing to define entry / exits from properties in the HC district
- Where possible:
 - integrate with Town proposals to improve Eastern and Western corridors
 - provide improved traffic marking and signage, reduce swales / ditches with buried piping
 - create cross walks for safety
 - provide curbing to define entry / exit points in the HC district
 - consider the possibility for turn lanes, sidewalks and bike lanes where appropriate



DOT / SMTC

Appear to be considering the following upgrades:

- Repave the entire section of Route 20
- Narrow the paving to reduce the shoulder width to slow down traffic
- Considering the speed limit
- Advocating for curbing in the HC district to make the driveways more obvious and safer

- They admitted they could advocate for other upgrades during the process and see what could be done, budget would be limited at some point
- We provided copies of the original Eastern Gateway recommendations and some additional commentary over the last few months



Priorities provided to SMTC / DOT

- **Purpose:** to gain as much synergy as possible between the highway project and further efforts the Town is taking to improve the Route 20 corridor.
- **Scope:** NYS DOT Route 20 Improvement Project from County Line Road east to the Skanellus Intersection at Route 175
- **Vision:** The Town's vision is to gradually improve the aesthetics of the traffic corridor along Route 20, providing a visual and physical transition from the agricultural landscape in the Town through to the Village center.
- **Goals:** The highway resurfacing project is a core component of the Route 20 project, and should focus on safety, efficient flow of traffic, and improved highway aesthetic opportunities. The intent is to achieve an improved highway corridor with engineering upgrades reflecting the impact of the changes in traffic, property usage and pedestrian/bicycle increases over the last 20 years and the age of the current roadway.



Current Situation – Approaching the Village



Recommended Gateway Aesthetics – Approaching the Village



Improvements with infrastructure implications

- DOT's road design and what is in scope (we don't know now...)
- Sidewalks
- Bike paths
- Current building proximities to the road
- Existing issues –
 - Swales
 - Detention basins
 - Small lot sizes
 - Services – sewer / water /
 - Power poles and overhead wiring
 - Large pen driveways and paving
 - Low usage and unsafe



Request to SMTC

Connect and jointly develop a program between the Town, Village and New York State DOT to improve and modify the roadway to possibly include development of:

- **buried storm water collection** lines and remote detention facilities
- establishment a cadence of **highway trees** in the town to establish a gateway element approaching the village
- explore options to **reduce overhead utilities** where possible
- **provide for cyclists and pedestrians** pathways along route 20
- **evaluate speed limits** and adjust to maintain safety and traffic flow both
- augment **highway lighting** to create improved night safety for pedestrians
- Provide for ingress and egress from roadways
- **support the Town's planning** efforts
- **improve the experience** for residents, businesses, and visitors



What will the road project funding cover?

Let's assume today.....**\$ 0.00**

What would we recommend?



Priority for this recommendation assuming no external funds:

- Perform the work in stages
- Improve the HC district now, because it has the most traffic and active business destinations
- Look to integrate the IRO district as projects occur in phase 2
- Enroll the landowners and developers with a partnership to achieve success over the long term



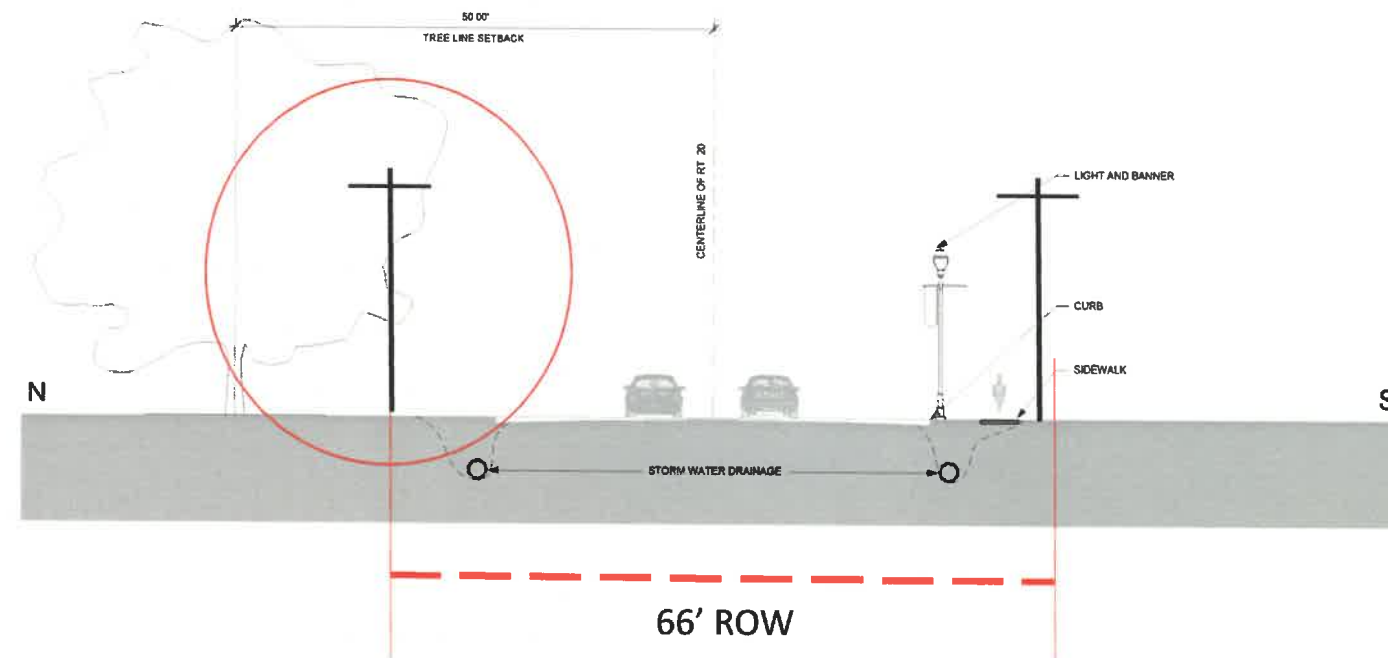
Route 20 & Eastern Gateway Improvements

How much can be done now?



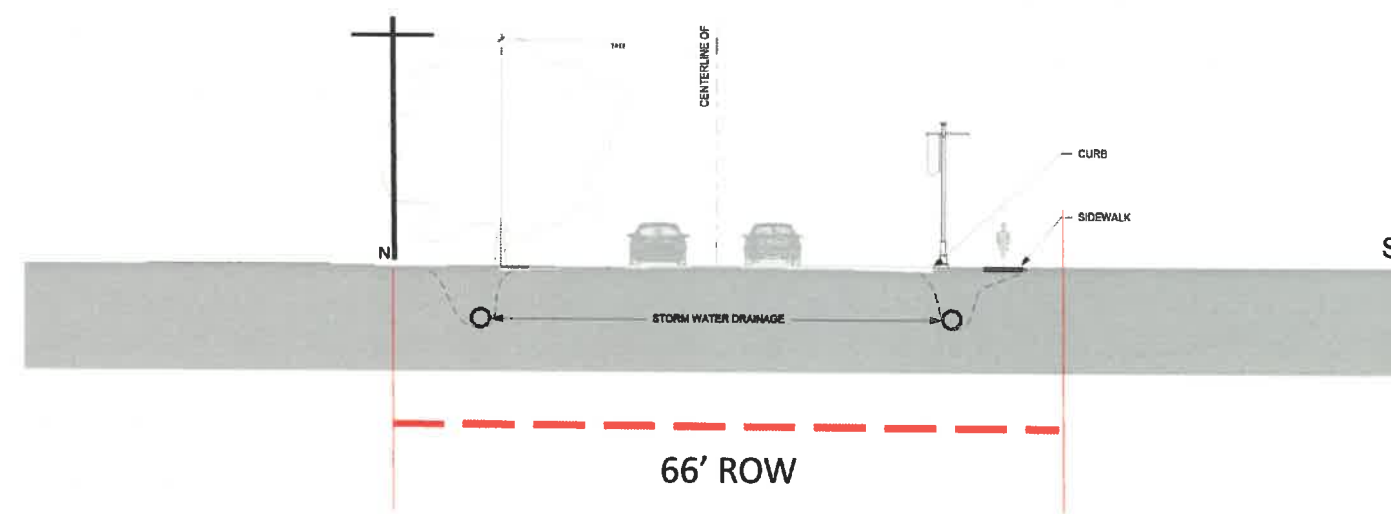
What about Electric and Communication Utilities

- Bury? This will take time given the cost and lack of incentive for the utilities
- Would allow for a more significant set of options for the trees and decorative poles



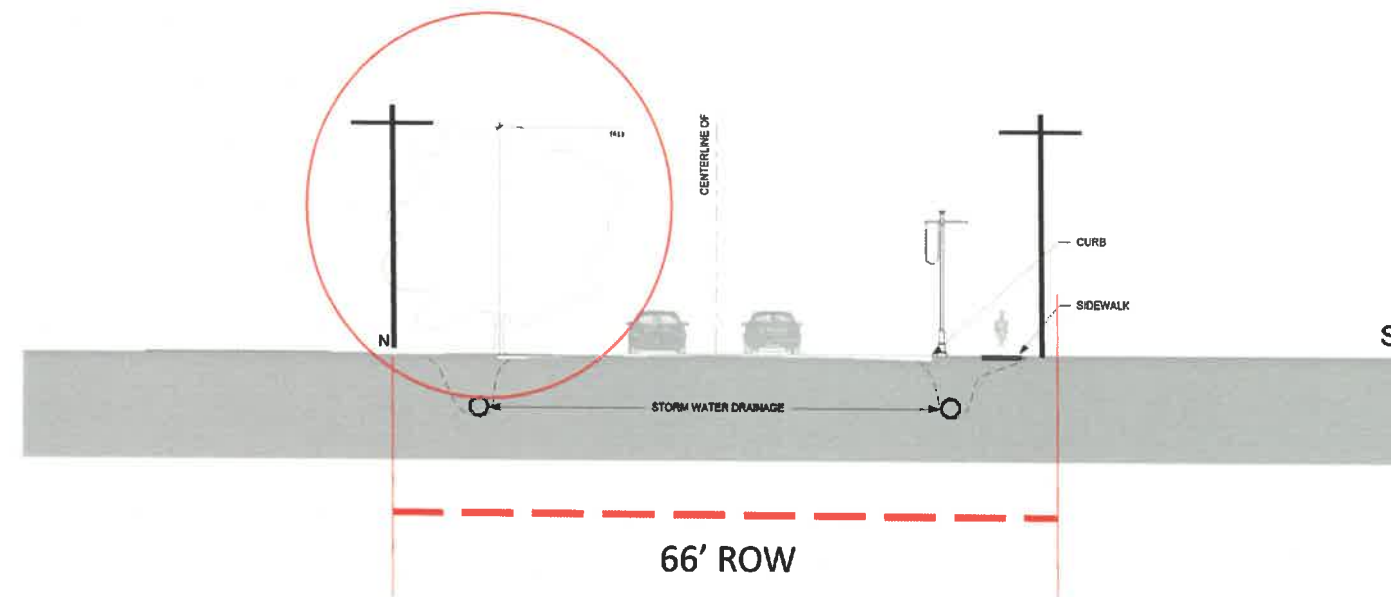
Live with the poles....

- Make a plan within the road ROW and current electric infrastructure



If utilities stay where they are:

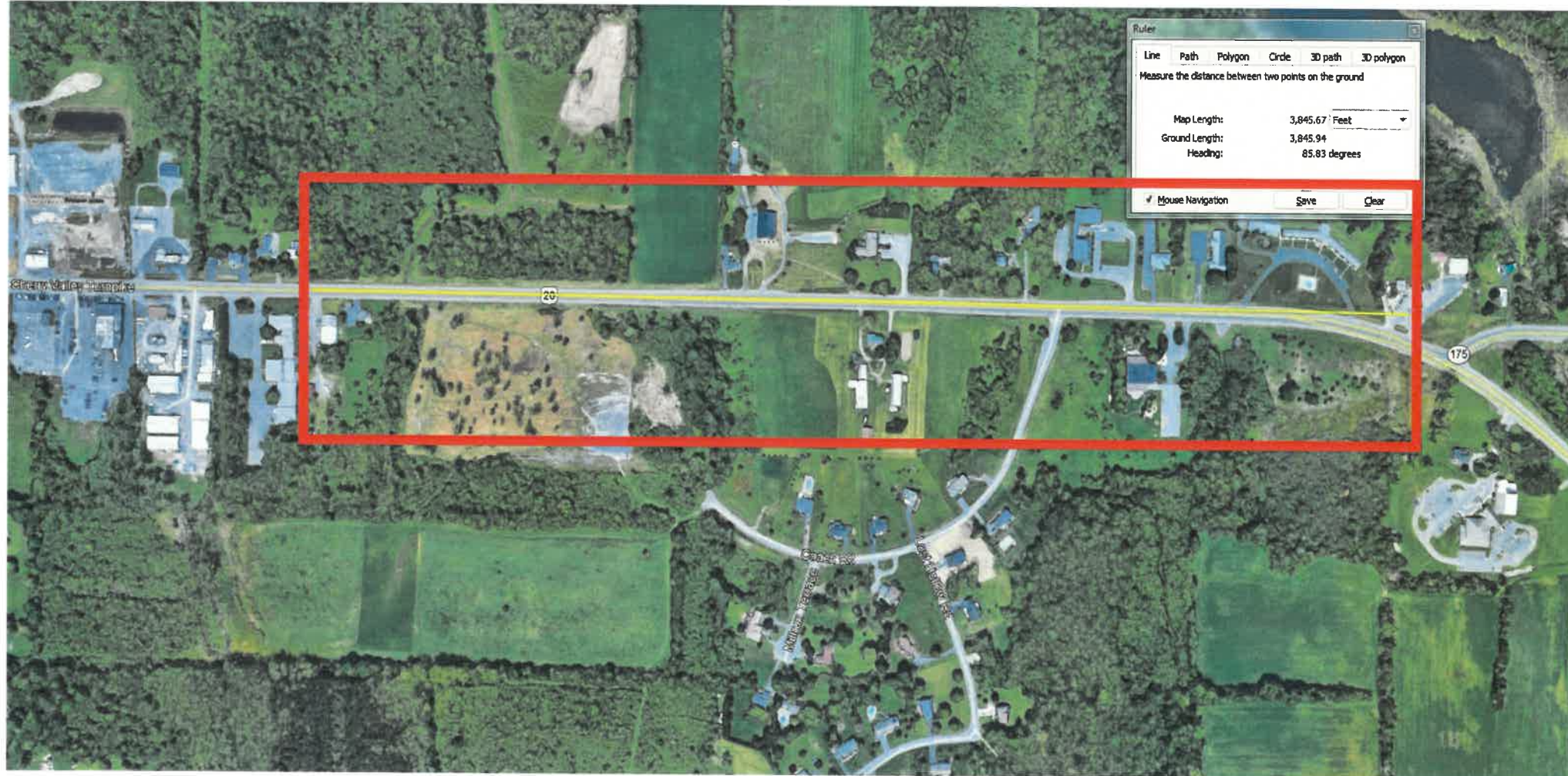
- The tree species and placement becomes a more careful choice
- The utilities dictate the solution
- Smaller trees and closer to the road



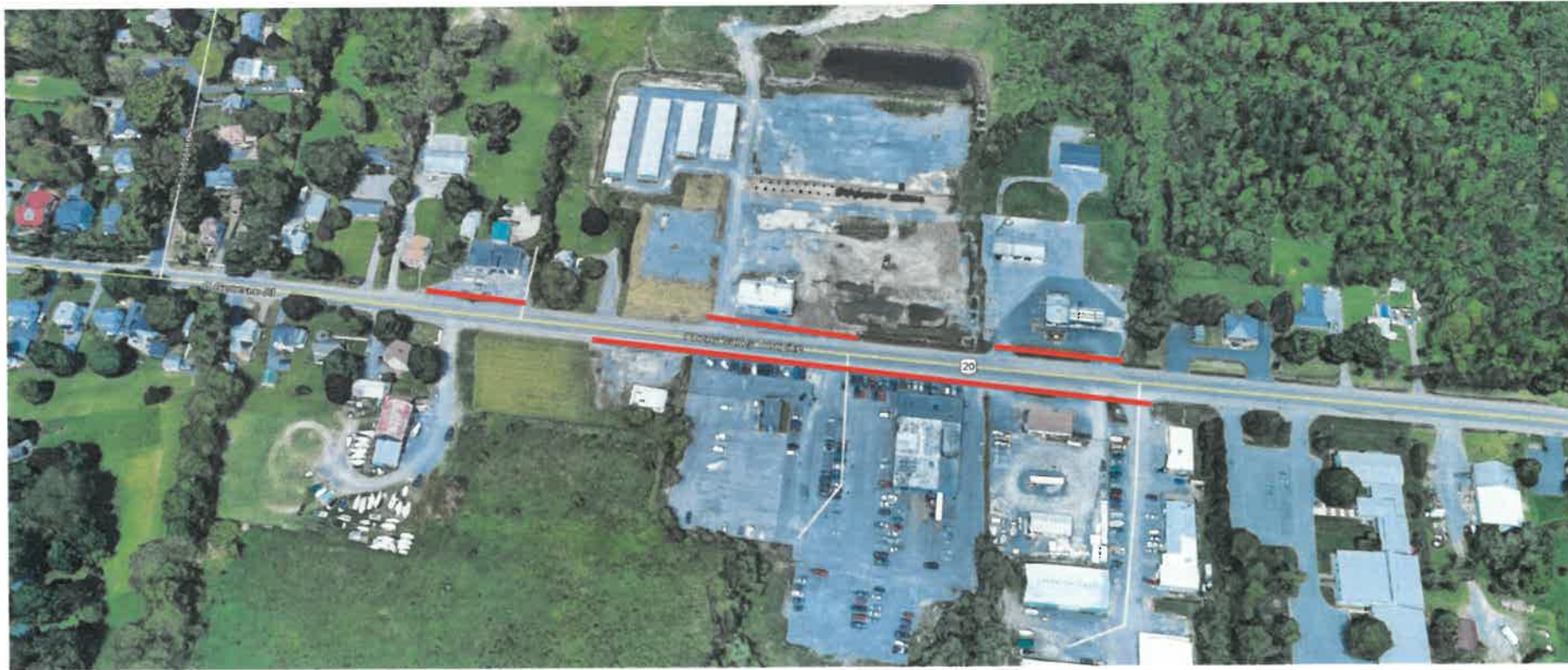
Sidewalks HC District 1900' +/-



Sidewalks IRO District 4000' +/-



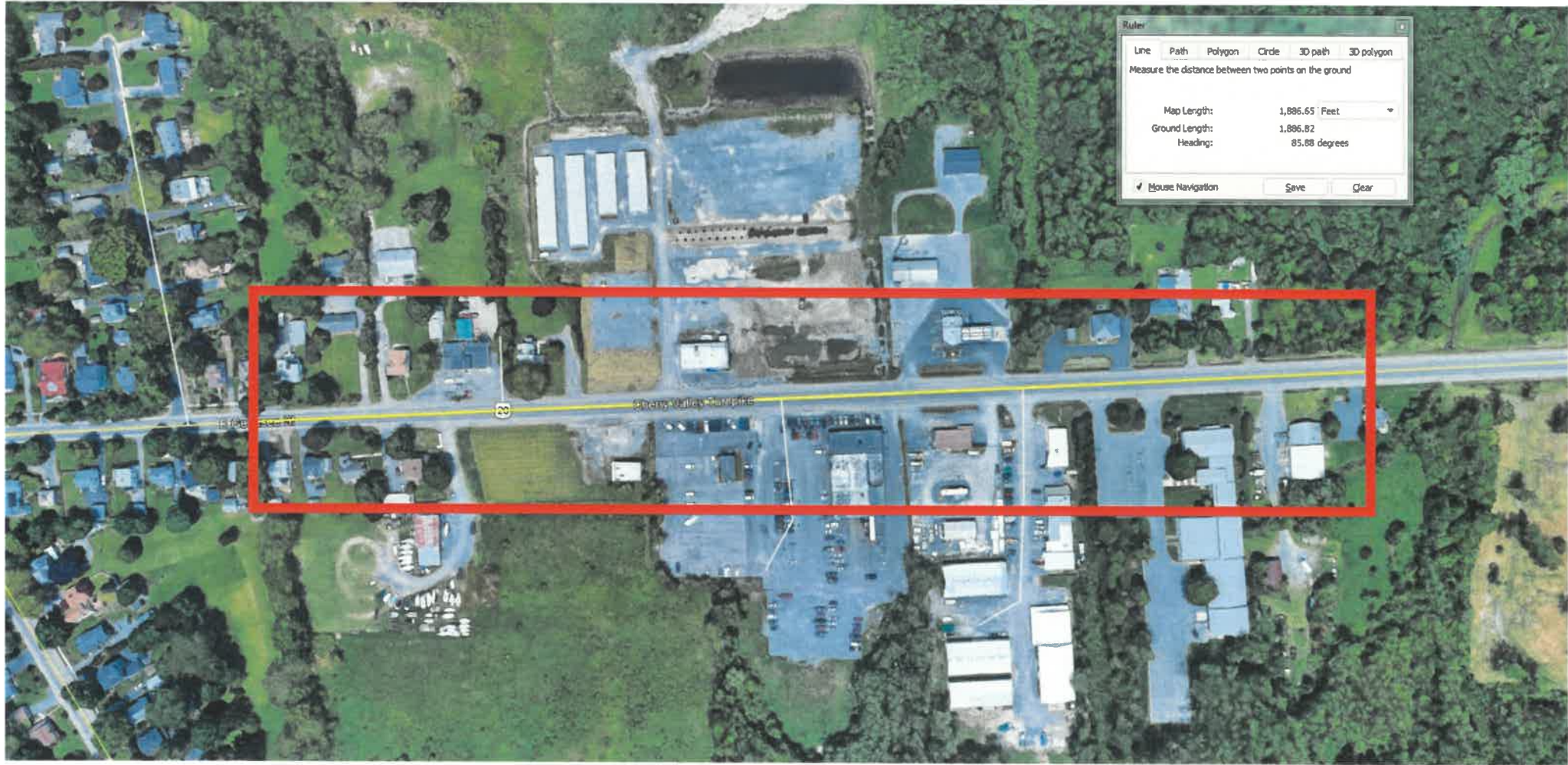
Curb Opportunities to control entry



The options

- Option 1 Do one side now, probably the north side because it links to the Village sidewalk near the Village edge
 - The multi-purpose trail will likely make more sense on the North side
- Option 2 Add the south side up to the car dealer and pizza shop where there is some walking traffic now





Sidewalks

- Who is responsible for the sidewalks?
 - Town
 - DOT includes “and curb...” in their estimate, do they have budget?
- Can we get the DOT to do both curbs and sidewalks for safety?

• If not.....Town HC District	2000' North Side @ \$ 195.00	\$ 390,000.00
	1000' South Side	\$ 180,000.00
• Total		<u>\$ 570,000.00</u>



Trees



Wires and poles interfere.....



Current overhead electric lines



North Side

14 trees in HC



South Side

7 – 10 trees



Trees

- DOT has 313 in their estimate on 30' spacing
-we would start with 15 – 25 on 100' spacing
- Select tree species that do not interfere with overhead wiring if possible
- HC District
 - 15 North Side @ \$ 620.00 \$ 9,300.00
 - 10 South Side \$ 6,200.00
- Total

\$ 15,500.00



Lighting Decorative or Overhead



Existing lighting and poles



Decorative Lights and Overhead

- The HC section already has a number of lighting elements competing for an aesthetic solution...
- New lights won't make much of an aesthetic difference in the HC district
- If we don't have foot / bicycle traffic yet, we should postpone lighting to the future
- Or, add overhead lights to the current poles
 - 10 @ \$ 7,500.00 + electric usage = \$ 75,000 + electric

- Total Recommended Now \$ 0.00



Covered Drainage

- Replace open drains with covered drains and catchbasins



Covered Drainage

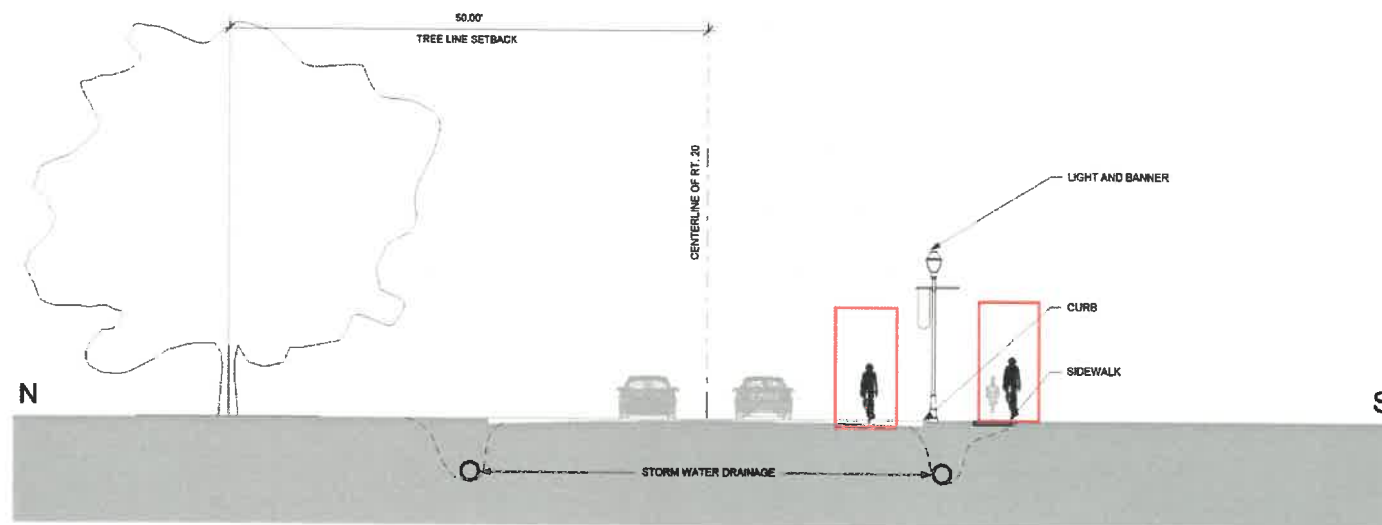
- Build the North side with the Route 20 DOT project
- Needs a detailed engineering review

- Or...tackle the 1200' within the HC district
 - 1200' @ \$ 332.00 = \$ 398,400.00



Bike Lane

- Either a bike lane in the highway zone or use the sidewalk for now
 - 2000' @ \$ 3.00 = \$ 6000.00



Decorative Poles

- Consider lighted, non-lighted or convertible poles for aesthetics, welcoming and town brand building



Route 20 & Eastern Gateway Improvements

Banner Messaging thoughts

- Town Events
- Farmers Market
- Symphony in the Park
- August Music Festival
- Father's Day Breakfast
- Antique Boat Show
- Town Parks
- Community Center
- Graduation
- Winter Festival
- Hiking trails
- Community Band



Considerations:

	SMTC Estimate	Proposal 1	Proposal 2
• Sidewalk / Curb	\$ 830,000.00	\$ 390,000.00	\$ 390,000.00
• Trees	\$ 194,000.00	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,500.00
• Decorative Lights	\$ 655,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
• Overhead Lights	\$ 172,500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 75,000.00
• Covered Drains	\$ 1,870,350.00	\$ 398,400.00	\$ 500,000.00
• Trail	\$ 114,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 114,000.00
• Bike Lane	\$ 31,680.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 31,680.00
• Decorative poles & Banners	\$ 0.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
• Contingency (40%)	\$ 1,750,000.00	\$ 331,560.00	\$ 460,472.00
• Total	\$ 6,120,000.00	\$ 1,160,460.00	\$ 1,611,652.00



Next steps

- Small team to lead, get remaining information, set a date and choose a path with funding
- Find out what the state will do
 - Budget
 - Is part of the 2023 project
- Decide what the town will own and set the budget
- Create a basic plan for the district:
 - Get estimate from Town Engineering
 - What is on scope and timing
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- Develop documents for review and approval
- Meet with landowners for buy in and suggestions
- Approve, fund and implement



SMTC recommendation

SMTC / DOT Draft Plan

Estimate \$ \$ 6.12M with contingency

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| • Sidewalk and curb on both sides of Route 20 = 4,260' | • \$ 830,000 |
| • Trees in HC district on 30' spacing = 313 | • \$ 194,000 |
| • Lampposts on both sides of route 20 for ¼ mile = 52 | • \$ 655,000 |
| • Overhead lights in IRO = 23 | • \$ 172,000 |
| • Covered drainage = 5550' | • \$ 1,870,000 |
| • Multiuse trail in IRO district = 3,800' | • \$ 114,000 |
| • Bike lanes 10,560' | • \$ 31,680 |
| • 40% Contingency | • \$ 1,750,000 |



Recommended Gateway Aesthetics – Approaching the Village



Thank you









