STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
REGION 3
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TOWN OF CICERO
SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

jg 3/18/14 cc: TB. Bob Smith Hwy Dept

CARL F. FORD, P.E.
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

JOAN MCDONALD
COMMISSIONER

March 14, 2014

Ms. Jessica M. Zambrano
Supervisor, Town of Cicero
8236 Brewerton Road
Cicero, New York 13039

Dear Ms. Zambrano:

RE: ROUTE 11 SOUTH FROM THE
HAMLET OF CICERO
TRAFFIC SAFETY STUDY

We have completed an investigation regarding the Town's request for a traffic safety study on Route 11, Brewerton Road, between Crabtree Lane and Reis Drive. Our investigation included an accident analysis, signal study, benefit cost analysis, and field observations of the area.

Field observations showed all existing traffic control devices are installed and functioning properly.

The accident analysis reviewed the most recent three years of available accident data. Based on our review, we have determined that a three-color traffic signal is not warranted at this time for any of the intersections analyzed in our study. During the three-year study period, there was only one accident that could have been prevented by a three-color traffic signal, and the accident rate along this corridor is 35% of the State-wide average rate. Installing a three-color traffic signal where it isn't appropriate would likely increase the number of accidents. We will, however, continue to monitor this site in the event conditions change.

Accident data did indicate a safety benefit could be obtained along Route 11, between Reis Drive and Factory Street, with the installation of a Center Two Way Left Turn Lane (TWLTL). As a result, two operational choices for a TWLTL were evaluated for appropriateness.

1.) Retain current width of Route 11 – convert Route 11 from 4 lanes of NB/SB traffic to 3 lanes, 1 lane NB, 1 lane SB with a Center Turn Lane.
2.) Widen the roadway to a 5-lane section – retain 2 NB lanes, 2 SB lanes with a Center Turn Lane.

Conclusions:

1.) The operational choice of installing a TWLTL while retaining the current roadway width is not feasible. The major concern was with the volumes of vehicles on Route 11. Volumes and congestion must be carefully weighed prior to the installation of a TWLTL. Nationally recognized studies provide guidelines for functional conversion of roadways from 4 lanes to 3 lanes. The section of roadway in question is above the recommended threshold for capacity. Installation of a TWLTL under these conditions could create new, congestion related traffic safety issues. Based on these factors, the installation of a TWLTL at the current road width would not be appropriate at this time.

2.) Widening the roadway to a 5-lane section with a Two Way Left Turn Lane might provide an appropriate alternative to accommodate the current and expected traffic volumes, with the added benefit of removing left turning vehicles from the travel lane. However, due to the impact roadway widening would have on adjacent property owners and local businesses, there are multiple stakeholders' considerations to be weighed prior to contemplation of that action. Additionally, the creation of a TWLTL would require widening of the roadway, which would involve property acquisition, utility relocation, roadway reconstruction, and potential environmental impacts. Furthermore, significant capital funds would need to be obtained and secured for construction. At this point, due to the current fiscal constraints of balancing the Department's capital program, it would be difficult to progress a capacity improvement type project over the safety needs of projects currently on the Department's capital program. As a result of these considerations, the installation of a 5-lane section with a TWLTL would not be appropriate at this time. However, if funding for 'Beyond Preservation' type projects becomes available, we will revisit your issues of concern along the Route 11 corridor for future possible improvements.

Thank you for your interest in this traffic safety matter.

Very truly yours,

CARL F. FORD, P. E.
Regional Director of Transportation

cc: Assemblyman A. Stirpe
Rev. J. E. Gehl, Pastor of Sacred Heart Church
J. F. Snell, Chief of Police, Town of Cicero
R. J. Sahm, Town Resident
D. F. Schryver, Town Resident