

Kathleen Ramsay

From: Fowler, Mike <Mike.Fowler@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 6:04 PM
To: Gamble, Amy; Kaplan, Jon; Dupigny-Giroux Mario; Coburn, Patti
Cc: Pappas, Nicholas; Devlin, Jesse; Chris Lathrop
Subject: RE: Middlebury – Starksboro, VT116 STP 2953(1).

Thanks much Amy.

From: Gamble, Amy
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 8:36 AM
To: Kaplan, Jon <Jon.Kaplan@vermont.gov>; Fowler, Mike <Mike.Fowler@vermont.gov>; Dupigny-Giroux Mario <Mario.Dupigny-Giroux@vermont.gov>; Coburn, Patti <Patti.Coburn@vermont.gov>
Cc: Pappas, Nicholas <Nicholas.Pappas@vermont.gov>; Devlin, Jesse <Jesse.Devlin@vermont.gov>; Chris Lathrop <clathrop@dubois-king.com>
Subject: RE: Middlebury – Starksboro, VT116 STP 2953(1).

Mario wrote faster than I did...I agree with him that the speeds should be documented prior to trying to solve a problem that may or may not exist.

I suspect that they were asking for the “Quiet – Neighborhoods Ahead” signs because they’ve already been told on numerous occasions that they can’t have Jake Brake signs. The Agency does not allow Jake Brake signs on state highways and strongly discourages towns from installing them on their own roads. Traffic Ops is the party who recommended to Jim Clancy to say no.

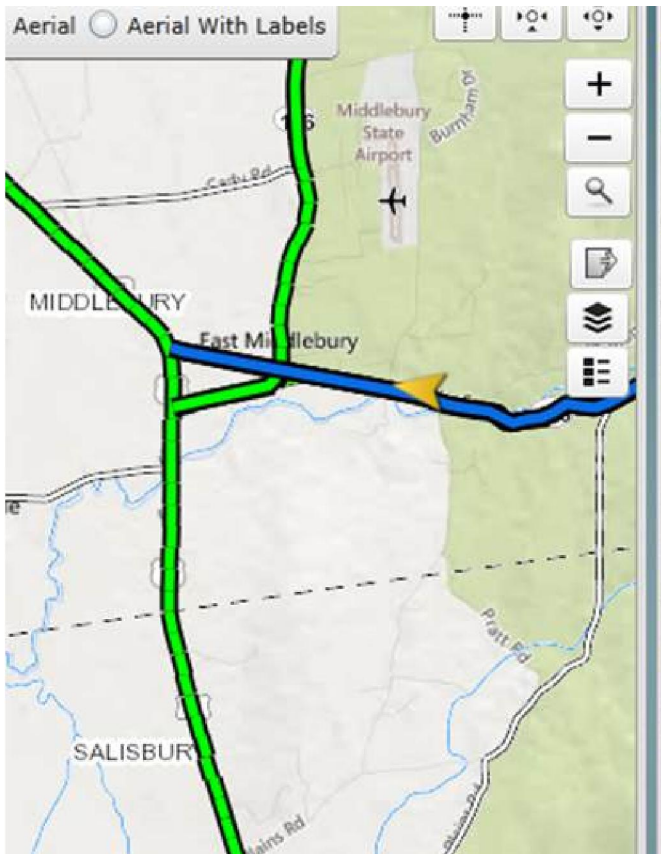
On eastbound VT 125, there is a All way stop controlled intersection with VT 116 near the entrance to the village. You can’t get much calmer than stopped. (Likewise for eastbound VT 116). Both of these segments are coming from US 7, from a 90 degree turn, so it is unlikely that vehicles are building up much of a head of steam in the half mile prior to getting to the stop controlled intersection.

On westbound VT 125, vehicles are coming down a long winding hill into the village. Trucks are undoubtedly using their engine brakes for safety. If they are aware of certain trucks/companies or certain times of day, they could request that DMV do some targeted enforcement both for speed and to inspect for defective equipment (ie, mufflers).

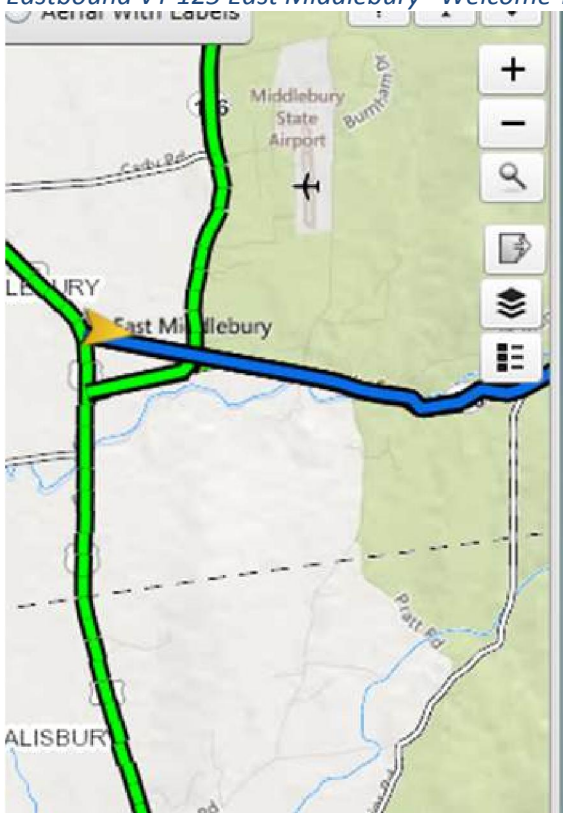
Middlebury has a police department, so they could do their own beefed up speed enforcement in general.

They already have the “village look” – tree lined, sidewalked streets with dense driveways. The only additional roadside characteristics for visual speed cues would be curbing and on-street parking, but they would lose their green strip and it would be expensive.

Westbound VT 125 RSFS is further into village than the requested “quiet neighborhood” sign. It could be moved further out.



Eastbound VT 125 East Middlebury "Welcome To" sign could be more prominent if larger



amy.gamble@vermont.gov

From: Dupigny-Giroux Mario
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 8:15 AM
To: Kaplan, Jon <Jon.Kaplan@vermont.gov>; Fowler, Mike <Mike.Fowler@vermont.gov>; Gamble, Amy <Amy.Gamble@vermont.gov>; Coburn, Patti <Patti.Coburn@vermont.gov>
Cc: Pappas, Nicholas <Nicholas.Pappas@vermont.gov>; Devlin, Jesse <Jesse.Devlin@vermont.gov>; Chris Lathrop <clathrop@dubois-king.com>
Subject: RE: Middlebury – Starksboro, VT116 STP 2953(1).

First step would be to document the speed problem.

One possibility could be to gate post the speed reduction ahead signs on VT 125 and on VT 116 (both eastbound). There is no sign in the westbound direction on VT 125. It goes from 40 mph to 30 mph and the change occurs right after a series of curves. Not sure that I would do this unless there is really a problem.

Dynamic stripping is another measure that could be used. Jennifer Fitch when she was in Research did a project on VT 30 in Jamaica several years ago. We also added dynamic stripping on a road in Ferrisburgh as part of a HRRR project. It was on a downhill curve.

Attached is an email from Scott Roger about VTrans' view on Jake Brakes.

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From: Kaplan, Jon
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 2:49 PM
To: Fowler, Mike <Mike.Fowler@vermont.gov>; Gamble, Amy <Amy.Gamble@vermont.gov>; Dupigny-Giroux Mario <Mario.Dupigny-Giroux@vermont.gov>; Coburn, Patti <Patti.Coburn@vermont.gov>
Cc: Pappas, Nicholas <Nicholas.Pappas@vermont.gov>; Devlin, Jesse <Jesse.Devlin@vermont.gov>; Chris Lathrop <clathrop@dubois-king.com>
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Generally, traffic calming has to do with vehicle speed, not noise, so two issues are getting conflated here. As far as speed goes, sounds like they already have a radar speed feedback sign in one direction at least. I know I have seen the “no jake brakes” signs in some towns, but not sure those are legal or enforceable. I don’t really have any good solutions related to traffic speed other than ramping up enforcement.

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VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program
Go to: <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/bike-ped>

VT Safe Routes to School Web site
www.SafeRoutesVT.org

 Before printing this e-mail think if it is necessary. Think Green!



From: Fowler, Mike
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 2:43 PM
To: Gamble, Amy <Amy.Gamble@vermont.gov>; Kaplan, Jon <Jon.Kaplan@vermont.gov>; Dupigny-Giroux Mario <Mario.Dupigny-Giroux@vermont.gov>; Coburn, Patti <Patti.Coburn@vermont.gov>
Cc: Pappas, Nicholas <Nicholas.Pappas@vermont.gov>; Devlin, Jesse <Jesse.Devlin@vermont.gov>; Chris Lathrop <clathrop@dubois-king.com>
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Folks - Who would be the best resource to investigate the question below? If you have any questions or need any additional information please let me or Nick Pappas know.

Thanks,
Michael J. Fowler, PE
Pavement Design Engineer
VTrans - Highway Safety & Design
Pavement Design Unit
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From: Kathleen Ramsay [<mailto:KRamsay@TownOfMiddlebury.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 12:52 PM
To: Fowler, Mike <Mike.Fowler@vermont.gov>
Subject: Middlebury – Starksboro, VT116 STP 2953(1).

Hello Mr. Fowler,

As a follow-up to a conversation we've been having with Jim Clancy about slowing traffic on Route 116 and Route 125 in East Middlebury (see attached letter). Since the Agency was not able to grant our request for a permit to post the Quiet Neighborhood Nearby signs, Jim suggested that I should contact you to discuss the possibility of incorporating traffic calming measures into the upcoming paving project.

Do you have any thoughts on low-cost measures that could be considered for calming traffic?

Thank you for your consideration,
Kathleen

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