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## **PUBLIC WORKSHOP SUMMARY UPDATE**

### **US 13 at Rifle Range Road Intersection Safety Improvements January 28, 2015; 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM Woodbridge Middle School**

A public workshop was held on January 28, 2015 at the Woodbridge Middle School to present proposed safety improvements for the intersection of US 13 and Rifle Range Road and to seek public input regarding these improvements. A total of 10 people attended the public workshop. Project team members received feedback on the proposed improvement. Two comment forms were submitted at the public workshop with an additional three comment forms and one letter being received after the workshop during the comment period that ended March 2, 2015. Below is a comment summary along with responses to the common public comments.

#### **Proposed Design:**

The intersection of US 13 at Rifle Range Road was identified as part of the Delaware Department of Transportation's 2013 Hazard Elimination Program based on a higher than average rate of crashes occurring at the intersection. The ranking of this intersection was based on crash and traffic data from 2009-2011. The proposed improvements involve restricting left-turn and through movements from Rifle Range Road onto US 13 and also involve the restriction of left-turn movements from both directions of US 13 onto Rifle Range Road. At the public workshop, DelDOT proposed to implement these improvements by installing tubular markers ("duckies") and make changes to the existing signing and pavement markings in an effort to quickly implement the safety improvements due to the number of angle crashes occurring at the intersection. The improvements would become permanent through the removal of the left-turn lanes on US 13 and the paved crossover as part of a future pavement and rehabilitation project.

Based on comments received from the public workshop and during the official comment period, the Department is modifying the proposed design. The improvements that will be put in place will include the restriction of left-turn and through traffic from Rifle Range Road onto US 13, however, the left-turn movements from US 13 to Rifle Range Road will remain open in order to minimize the amount of diverted traffic to adjacent crossovers, to maintain access from US 13 to residents and businesses in the area and to allow for efficient movement of emergency vehicles.

***UPDATE: The Department completed an updated review of crash data to determine if the angle crash trend has continued beyond 2011. A review of crash data shows the number of angle crashes has declined since 2009 and 2010. The Hazard Elimination Program study showed 14 angle crashes occurring in 2009 and 10 in 2010. The data shows that the number***

*of angle crashes has decreased to approximately 6 angle crashes per year from 2011 through 2014 and none occurring in 2015. Based on this information, DelDOT is not pursuing the intersection improvements further at this time and will monitor the location to determine if crash trends change in the future. Should crash trends change in the future, DelDOT will study the location again to determine what, if any, improvement should be implemented, up to an including intersection channelization, turn restrictions and/or signalization.*

Below are common comments received from the public during the comment period and the Department's responses to those comments.

### **Common Public Comments:**

- **There will be traffic crossing two lanes of on-coming traffic to make a left-turn. I can foresee more accidents than they have now. Closing the intersection will only put more traffic on Oak Road and the road behind Royal Farms.**
  - Turning right and then making a U-turn movement at a crossover to the north or south of the Rifle Range Road intersection should improve safety and reduce crashes. DelDOT has completed similar projects at other intersections. The crashes at the intersection that was modified were reduced to almost no crashes occurring and there were no increases in crashes at the adjacent crossovers due to diverted traffic. At an intersection such as this, you must cross the main roadway twice in order to continue through or make a left-turn from the side street. In a right-turn/u-turn scenario, a motorist can make a right-turn into the right lane of the mainline roadway, merge safely to the left and then merge into the crossover, position themselves to see on-coming traffic and then execute a u-turn when there is a gap that allows this movement. This two-stage movement has been proven to be much safer than traditional intersection movements. ***UPDATE: DelDOT is cancelling this project at this time due to a reduction in crashes since the previous study was completed.***
- **Install a traffic signal**
  - The need for a traffic signal was considered at this intersection during the study process and is not justified at this time. DelDOT takes the decision to install a traffic signal very seriously, and very carefully considers this topic particularly on high speed, high volume arterial roadways like US 13. While traffic signals typically have advantages in better serving side street traffic during peak hours and generally reducing angle crashes, they also have disadvantages by increasing rear-end crashes, increasing the delay on the major roadway during peak hours and increasing delays for all movements during non-peak hours. If and/or when development growth occurs in this area, a traffic signal may become justified at some point in time. The recommended improvements do not preclude future signalization of the intersection. ***UPDATE: DelDOT is cancelling this project at this time due to a reduction in crashes since the previous study was completed.***
- **Southbound left-turns and northbound left-turns should still be made, but eliminate cross over traffic east and westbound on Rifle Range. Emergency vehicles should be only ones allowed to cross over.**

- The modifications to the improvements presented at the public workshop (described above) will allow for left-turns to continue from northbound and southbound US 13. Through the use of tubular markers, emergency vehicles will still be able to cross the intersection should the need arise as the tubular markers are flexible and will allow an emergency vehicle to traverse over them. ***UPDATE: DelDOT is cancelling this project at this time due to a reduction in crashes since the previous study was completed.***
  
- **If it must be done, a longer turn lane at Antique Alley.**
  - The Department will monitor the queues from diverted traffic at the adjacent cross overs, including the cross over at Antique Alley. Should modifications be required at the adjacent cross overs, the Department will implement them as necessary. ***UPDATE: DelDOT is cancelling this project at this time due to a reduction in crashes since the previous study was completed.***