

South Berwick Feasibility Study: Basis for Purpose & Need Statement

Summary of South Berwick Transportation Committee Purpose & Needs Statement created in 2005:

- Reduce congestion at Rtes. 4 and 236 in order to:
 - Reduce in-town traffic volumes
 - Reduce schoolbus/school-related pedestrian/through-traffic conflict during peak commute periods
 - Provide better access to downtown and other developed areas during peak commute periods
 - Reduce use of unofficial bypasses (ie, local roads)
- Reduce truck and oversize vehicle passage through downtown
- Create a safer traveling environment for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists
- Provide and encourage more transportation choice (transit/bicycle/pedestrian)
- Ensure roadway capacity is maintained to meet long term economic needs of South Berwick Comprehensive Plan

Other issues brought up at the Public Meeting on December 1st:

- Study must be regional with regional consensus
- Engage large employers such as Shipyard, hospitals, and also make sure schools are involved
- Downtown must remain walkable and vital; right now it is hard to cross street during peak hours; quaint village look is important to preserve; traffic should be slowed in downtown
- Congestion and lack of parking negatively affects downtown businesses
- The perception of the problems of downtown congestion and lack of parking is somewhat higher than the reality
- South Berwick residents time their travel through and to the downtown in order to avoid peak periods.