

## **6.6. Recommended Plans and Programs to Support Easton’s Conservation, Development, and Infrastructure Strategies**

### **6.6.1 Sport Hill Road Transportation Concept Plan**

The Town of Easton seeks to improve public safety and promote public health through the planning and expansion of bicycle and pedestrian amenities that are consistent with the Plan of Conservation and Development. Linking the community to its schools, town facilities, recreational opportunities, landmarks, and other amenities by providing safe alternative modes of transportation designed in harmony with the neighborhood in which they are located is a priority for the Town.

In keeping with this, the Commission recommends the implementation of the Sport Hill Road Transportation Concept Plan derived from a well-attended community design charette in the Fall of 2019. Consultants from Fitzgerald & Halliday and Toole Design guided the charette with assistance from METROCOG and Town of Easton. The charette focused on collecting public input to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility along Sport Hill Road and Banks Road. The consultants, METROCOG, and Town of Easton representatives conducted a field review, met with key stakeholders from throughout the community, hosted a public informational session with breakout interview groups, conducted a survey, and developed a concept plan from information gathered.

A field review conducted at the beginning of the charette found the following observations:

- Lack of pedestrian facilities
- Limited or no shoulder space
- Pedestrians are present along Sport Hill Road
- Helen Keller Middle School (HKMS) students walk to Village Store
- Connections to Silverman’s Farm, Snow’s Farm, Sport Hill Farm, and Sherwood Farm are desirable
- Walk connections along Center Road to Morehouse Road desirable
- High traffic speeds (posted 35 MPH, 85th% speed 42-44 MPH)
- Challenging access to driveways and side streets
- Crashes relatively high when compared to other Easton roads
- Generous corner radius on Center Road intersection
- Heavily used by truck, emergency vehicles and farm vehicles
- Mix of land uses
- Some wide driveways
- Seasonal events contribute to localized congestion

The survey revealed that safety is an issue in this area shared by about 70% of respondents with “Lack of Sidewalks” and “Lack of Shoulders for Bicyclists” being the largest concerns. More than half of respondents would consider walking in the area if improvements were made and over 40% of respondents would consider biking also. Many responded that students travel in this area from school. Several parents have restricted their children from travelling through the area due to safety and would like to see improvements made so their children and others could be safe travelling through the area.

The result of all information gathered was the conceptual design plan found on the following page. The plan calls for a shared-use path along the eastern side of Sport Hill Road from HKMS to the Easton Village Store. From there, the path would transition to a wide concrete sidewalk that would continue to the existing crosswalk in front of Silverman’s Farm. A short segment of Banks Road from Sport Hill Road to Center Road would convert to a one-way eastbound roadway with a sidewalk provided where the pavement is no longer needed. The intersection of Sport Hill Road and Center Road would be realigned to provide a more ideal geometry. Three enhanced pedestrian crossings along Sport Hill Road would also be provided with one being at the existing Silverman’s Farm location, one at Banks Road, and one at the HKMS driveway.

Text Amendments to the Easton Plan of Conservation & Development  
effective September 1, 2021

**SPORT HILL ROAD TRANSPORTATION CONCEPT PLAN  
EASTON, CT**



TEXT AMENDMENT – Effective 9/1/2021