

TOWN OF DARIEN
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

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SENIOR PLANNER



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March 12, 2020

Kathleen Buch
Administrative Officer
Town of Darien
2 Renshaw Road
Darien, CT 06820

HAND DELIVERED

RE: *Mandatory Referral #1-2020 under Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-24
Board of Selectmen, Noroton Avenue & West Avenue Intersection Improvements*


Dear Kate:

At their meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, the Darien Planning and Zoning Commission issued a Mandatory Referral report regarding the proposal to substantially improve the Noroton Avenue/West Avenue intersection by creating new left turn lanes, installing new sidewalks and crosswalk areas, relocating curbs, and improving traffic and pedestrian signalization. The Commission acknowledged that the proposed improvements and overall widening of the intersection are intended to assist in remedying existing traffic deficiencies in the area, including improving poor Levels-of-Service, queuing of vehicles, and pedestrian safety.

The Commission's brief one-page report, noting the proposal's consistency with the 2016 Town Plan of Conservation & Development, is enclosed.

If you have any questions about the report, please give me a call.

Sincerely,


Fred W. Doneit, AICP, GISP
Senior Planner

Enclosure

Cc: Jayme Stevenson, First Selectman
Caryn Diller, Town Clerk ✓
J. Wayne Fox, Esq.
Edward Gentile, P.E., Director of Public Works
Seth Morton, RTM Moderator

**DARIEN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
MANDATORY REFERRAL #1-2020
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOROTON AVE. & WEST AVE. INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS
MARCH 10, 2020**

Mandatory Referral #1-2020, Board of Selectmen, Noroton Avenue & West Avenue Intersection Improvements.

Request for report regarding improvements to the Noroton Avenue/West Avenue intersection, including proposed road widening.

The proposal is to substantially improve the Noroton Avenue/West Avenue intersection by creating new left turn lanes, installing new sidewalks and crosswalk areas, relocating curbs, and improving traffic and pedestrian signalization. The improvements and overall widening of the intersection are intended to assist in remedying existing traffic deficiencies in the area, including improving poor Levels-of-Service, queuing of vehicles, and improving pedestrian safety.

The intersection of Noroton Avenue and West Avenue is an integral part of the Town's transportation system. Its importance in the Town-wide transportation system is a result of its key location – two blocks northeast of the Noroton Heights Train Station, about five blocks east of Middlesex Middle School, and seven blocks south of Darien High School. Both Noroton Avenue and West Avenue are considered collector roads in the Town's transportation system.

The improvements to the intersection/roadway will affect seven private property owners in the direct vicinity of the intersection. The Town is in the process of securing a combination of temporary and permanent easements in order to complete the work.

Following a review of the November 2019 plans prepared by Fuss & O'Neill of the proposed intersection improvements, the Commission finds that the conceptual plans and improvements to the intersection including, but not limited to the widening of Noroton Avenue and West Avenue, are consistent with the 2016 Town Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).