Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

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MEMO:

To: Charles Kirker, Chief of Police
Brian Osborne, Director of Public Works :
Town of Colchester

From: Daryl Benoit, Transportation Planner, CCRPC

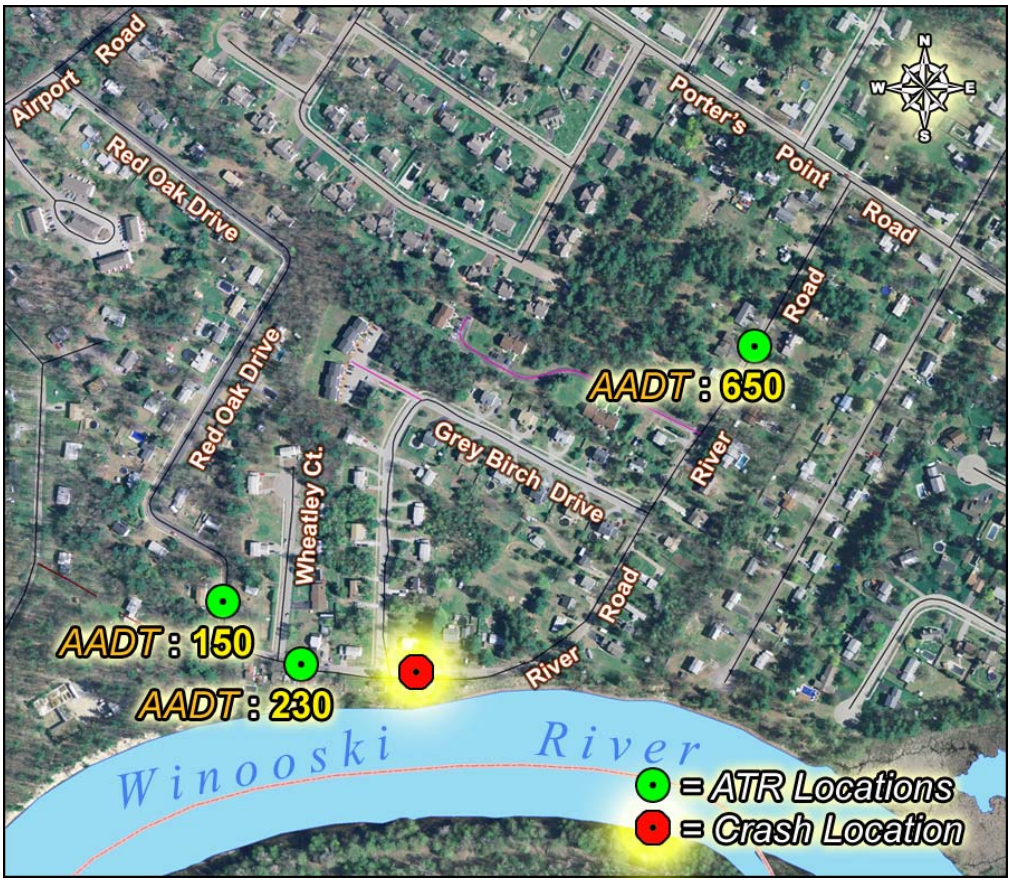
Date: 7 Nov 2011

Subject: Traffic counts in the vicinity of River Rd., Colchester, VT

At the request of the Town of Colchester, CCRPC conducted three traffic counts in the vicinity of River Road, at the location of a crash incident which occurred during August of 2011. CCRPC set up Automatic Traffic Recorders (ATRs) at the following locations:

1. River Road between Porter's Point Road & Riverbend Road from 11-18 August 2011
2. River Road between Wheatley Court & Grey Birch Drive from 17-28 October 2011
3. Red Oak Drive between River Road and the first curve to the north of River Road from 17-28 October 2011

FIGURE 1. ATR installations & AADT in the vicinity of River Road, Colchester, 2011



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As the Town was interested in gauging pass-thru traffic on the connection from River Road to Red Oak Drive (i.e. vehicles using the combination of Red Oak and River Road to go from Porters Point Road to Airport Road or vice versa), two ATRs were concurrently installed on both streets (see **Figure 1**.).

Although it is not conclusive, the data obtained from the counters suggests that there is little pass-thru traffic between River Road and Red Oak Drive. Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) within both locations seems reasonably linked to current estimated trip generation rates for the number of single-family detached housing units within their vicinity (9.57 average trip per dwelling unit)[1]. As the AADT along the westernmost section of River Road exceeds that on Red Oak Drive by 80 vehicles (see **Figure 1**.), it could be estimated that the difference in traffic volume is accounted for in the average daily number of trips taken by some eight households (possibly, trips originating from the southernmost section of Red Oak Drive, which seek access to the River Rd. & Porter's Point Road Intersection).

FIGURE 2. Traffic Speed in the vicinity of River Road, Colchester, 2011

85th Percentile Speed	Direction 1	Direction 2
River Rd. @ Riverbend	**NB:** *33 mph*	**SB:** *33 mph*
River Rd. @ Wheatley	**EB:** *25 mph*	**WB:** *26 mph*
Red Oak Drive	**NB:** *23 mph*	**NB:** *23 mph*

Figure 2 indicates the 85th percentile speeds were captured by the ATRs. However, the location of the August 2011 crash was not accurately determined until after the ATRs were set up (see locations mapped in **Figure 1**.). Nevertheless, it is reasonable to estimate the 85th percentile speed at the crash location to be between what data was captured on the straightaway near Riverbend Rd., and data captured from the location near Wheatley Ct (i.e. between 26-33 mph). The pattern of speed along this roadway suggests that traffic does slow down as it approaches Red Oak Drive.

As there would be negligible speed reduction to closing off the connection between River Road and Red Oak Drive, and while observed traffic volumes suggest negligible pass-thru traffic between the two streets, CCRPC would not recommend closing this roadway.

CCRPC staff would be happy to meet with all parties in the Town of Colchester to discuss opportunities for further study to improve safety at this location.

[1] Trip Generation: An ITE Informational Report, 8th Edition, 2008, p. 290

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FIGURE 3. Looking east on River Rd., just west of Grey Birch Drive (*reported location of the August 2011 crash*), **11 Nov 2011**

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FIGURE 4. Looking west on River Rd., just east of Wheatley Court, **12 Oct 2011**

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FIGURE 5. Looking west at the intersection of River Road & Red Oak Drive, **12 Oct 2011**

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FIGURE 6. Looking east at the intersection of River Road & Red Oak Drive, **12 Oct 2011**

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FIGURE 7. Roadway widths within the River Road & Red Oak Drive neighborhood, measured on the ground during **Oct 2011**