



South Hero Scoping Study

Featherbed Lane/Apple Island
Resort Safety Concerns

Project Team Meeting #2
September 11, 2025

Agenda

- Local Concerns Meeting Feedback
- Purpose and Need Statement
- Alternatives Discussion
- Next Steps



Local Concerns Meeting Feedback

1. Corridor Speeds

- Speeds along Route 2 are widely viewed as too high and inconsistent. Many participants support a corridor-wide **35 mph treatment**, with a few suggesting time-of-day/seasonal adjustments.
- Concerns about limited enforcement and the need for **stronger design cues** (clearer speed zoning, gateway/transition signs, pavement legends, and speed-feedback displays) to pull operating speeds down.
- Crash history and frequent near-misses were cited as justification for lowering speeds and improving compliance.

2. Pedestrian Safety (Crossings and Sidewalk)

- **Two marked crossings** drew strong support—near the Sandbar Restaurant and at Featherbed Lane—with interest in beacons (e.g., RRFBs), high-visibility markings, and lighting. Placement should prioritize adequate sight distance; Featherbed Lane was often favored on that basis.
- Multiple commenters asked for **a sidewalk on the west side of Route 2** to create a safer, continuous walking connection among key destinations (Sandbar, Apple Island Resort, Featherbed Lane, the marina).
- Past fatalities and numerous near-misses were emphasized as reasons to make crossings legible and protected, with advance driver warning—especially during high-season surges.



Local Concerns Meeting Feedback

3. Parking and Bicycle Safety

- On busy days, **boat-launch overflow parking** (trucks with trailers) encroaches on Route 2 shoulders, forcing cyclists into traffic—a peak-season safety concern. Community feedback framed this as both a bike-safety and parking-management problem, suggesting clearer no-parking controls, overflow management, and seasonal delineation where feasible.
- **Passing in the breakdown lane** is also a concern for bikers.

4. Turning Movements & Sight Distance

- Visibility constraints at the eastbound curve and at **Apple Island driveways**; requests for vegetation/rock clearing and minor geometric refinements to improve sight lines and driveway egress.
- Pinch points arise when faster traffic encounters RVs/boats slowing to turn, leading to sudden braking and risky behavior, including **passing in the breakdown lane**. Feedback focused on speed management, driver warnings, and driveway/sight-line fixes to reduce friction.



DRAFT Purpose and Need Statement

Purpose – The purpose of this project is to improve the safety of US Route 2 in South Hero near the Featherbed Lane/Apple Island Resort intersection and surrounding area for all users (walkers, bikers, and vehicles).

Need – Recognizing the importance of enhancing safety at this location, the following needs have been identified:



- **Provide safe crossing opportunities for bicyclists and pedestrians.** With the proximity of the Apple Island Resort, the Apple Island Marina, and a restaurant and public marina in the study area, there is a large demand for bikers and pedestrians to cross the street in this area, particularly during the summer months. Currently, there are no crossings or bicycle lanes and vehicles often exceed the 40MPH speed limit.



- **Improve vehicular safety while still maintaining the functionality of the corridor.** US Route 2 is an important corridor and the gateway to South Hero and a key route to New York State. This area also has a history of crashes attributed to high speeds and a wide range of uses, including bikers and pedestrians, as well as trucks and RVs.



- **Enhance the area as an important recreational destination.** The Apple Island Resort is a major summer destination and an important recreational destination for the community. Ensuring the comfort and safety of accessing nearby amenities for year-round and seasonal residents is important to maintaining and enhancing this resource and supporting the local economy.



Alternatives Discussion



Short Term / Low Cost

Long Term / High Cost

1. Corridor Speeds

- Reduce speed limit
- Roadway design solutions
 - Narrower travel lanes
 - High visibility paint

2. Pedestrian Safety (Crossings and Sidewalk)

- Two marked crossings (Sandbar Restaurant and at Featherbed Lane)
 - Signage
 - RRFB's
 - Pedestrian refuge island
 - high-visibility markings
 - Lighting
- Sidewalk

3. Parking and Bicycle Safety

- No parking signage in paved shoulder
- Bicycle lane in paved shoulder

4. Turning Movements & Sight Distance

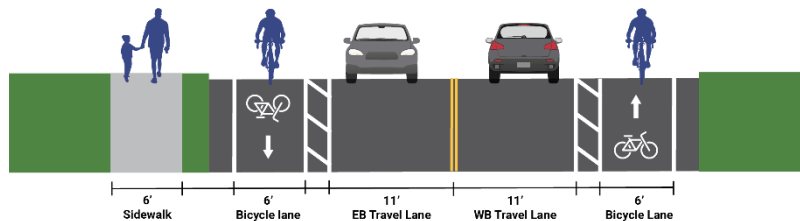
- Work with Apple Island Resort to improve site lines at entrance/exit



Alternatives Discussion

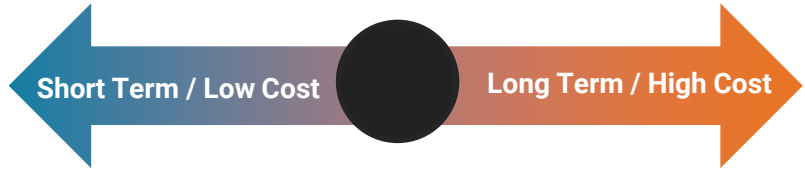


- **Two Crosswalks**
 - **RRFBs**
 - **Approach signage (on road and freestanding)**
 - **Pedestrian refuge islands**
- **Sidewalk on western side of road**
- **Narrow travel lanes**
- **Separated bicycle lane in both directions**
- **Seasonal Flex Posts**

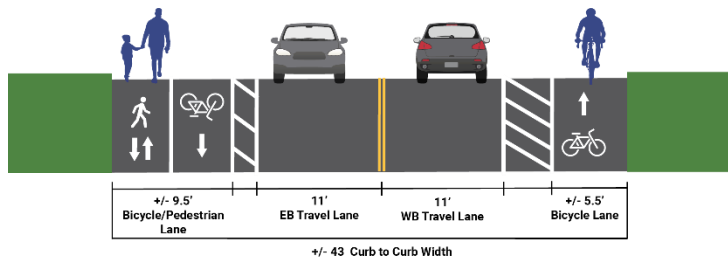




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- **Seasonal Flex Posts**
- **Maintains current roadway width**

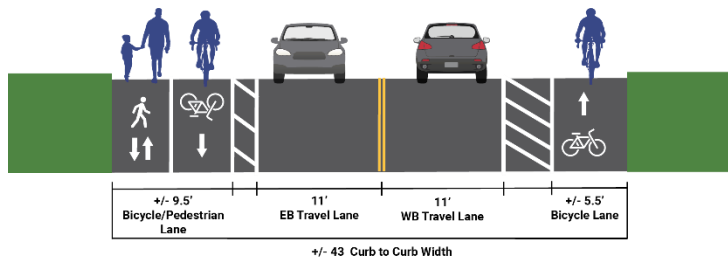




Alternatives Discussion



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Next Steps

Project Milestone	Expected Date
Kickoff Meeting	May 14 th
Base Map/Existing Conditions	Week of July 18 th
Team Meeting #1	Week of July 21 st
Local Concerns Meeting + Survey	Week of August 4 th
Purpose and Need Statement	Week of August 8 th
Team Meeting #2	Week of August 25 th
Evaluate Alternatives	Week of September 26 th
Team Meeting #3	Week of September 29 th
Alternatives Presentation	Week of October 20 th
Team Meeting #4	Week of October 27 th
Draft Report	Week of November 21 st
Public Information Meeting	Week of December 8 th
Final Report	Week of December 19 th

- Stantec will prepare a list of up to **three alternatives** and a basic graphic showing schematic alignments of the alternatives for review with the local team at Team Meeting #2.
- **Concept graphics** of the alternatives will be prepared. Concepts will include a general schematic alignment, typical sections, and representative imagery.

Deliverables:

- List of alternatives
- Draft concept graphics and evaluation matrix of alternatives

-  Project Team Meetings
-  Stantec Deliverables
-  Public Engagement