

An Explanation of Warrant Article 16

ARTICLE 16.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to conduct an engineering study of potential traffic circulation and roadway alignment improvements on NH Route 43 and NH Route 27 within the “Four Corners” area as detailed in the Town of Candia Transportation Plan. The products of the engineering study would include conceptual designs for the improvements, determination of the cost for the improvements, and identification of potential right-of-way impacts for the improvements. The study will support a request by the Town for inclusion of the project in the State of NH Transportation Improvement Program which would be needed to secure federal and state funding for the project. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 7 to 2)

Explanation: People in Candia have indicated a strong desire to have a town center, notably at the recent Community Profile – Candia 2026 it was the top priority chosen. The Four Corners area seems the most logical to develop as the Candia Town Offices, including the Police Department, Fire Department, Henry W. Moore School, Smyth Public Library, and Moore park are all located within a short distance.

However, the Candia Transportation Steering Committee found high traffic volumes flowing through this intersection, many of them commuters (5,000 in 2014 at the Deerfield border on Route 43, projected 7,400 by 2040). Accidents in the Four Corners area and on the roads leading to and from Exit 3 on Route 101, have been increasing. This makes provision of vital services and transportation to and from the school, as well as routine driving on our roads, more difficult and less safe.

Warrant Article 16 proposes allocating town funds to get the process of improving the traffic patterns started. One proposal is to have traffic from Exit 3, Route 101, stay on Main Street/Route 27 longer, and to enter a round-about southeast of Four Corners; traffic for Deerfield would continue onto a new road built behind the fire station and finally continue on Route 43 as is currently done. There are two other options that the NH Department of Transportation has done some work on but did not offer the comprehensive improvement that the first proposal does. A pre-engineering study would evaluate the various options and indicate to the NH Department of Transportation Candia’s interest in improvements to the State Highways that run through its center. Funding to build the improvements would hopefully be from state and federal sources.

This allocation of funds does not determine the road improvements to be made; it simply will provide more data on which to have the town make a decision. Actual construction was estimated at 2026 at the earliest but the process is a long one, and the window for submission of requests for the State’s Ten-Year Plan only opens every two years.

Written by Ricia Velasco for the Candia Transportation Steering Committee:

- Boyd Chivers, Chair and Selectman
- Scott Komisarek, Vice-Chair, Selectman, Planning Board
- Dennis Lewis, Town Road Agent
- Ricia (Patricia) Velasco, Town Resident

Full text of the Transportation Plan as accepted by the Planning Board is available at http://www.candianh.org/docs/misc/2016_transportation_plan.pdf.

