



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



William Cass, P.E.  
Commissioner

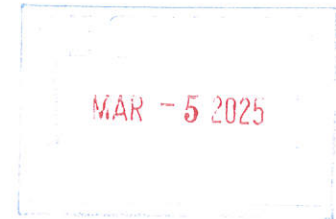
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David Rodrigue, P.E.  
Assistant Commissioner

Andre Briere, Colonel, USAF (RET)  
Deputy Commissioner

February 26, 2025

Mr. Brien Brock, Chair  
Board of Selectmen  
74 High Street  
Candia, NH 03034



Re: Intersection modifications  
NH 43 at Old Candia Road

Dear Mr. Brock:

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Board of Selectmen, Executive Councilor Stephen, and his colleagues to discuss the ongoing concerns with the intersection at NH 43 and Old Candia Road.

As we discussed, the existing intersection configuration results in unorthodox intersection control. NH 43 represents the primary route with the highest traffic volumes. However, instead of being the through route, it turns at a 90-degree angle through the intersection, occupying adjacent legs of a four-way intersection. The usual right-of-way rules learned by drivers for decades do not apply here. Drivers typically experience a four-way intersection that includes a major route in opposite directions and minor routes regulated by STOP signs at 90-degree angles, opposite each other.

At this intersection, drivers approaching from Old Candia Road might expect to have the right-of-way against opposing left-turn traffic, as would typically be the case. Additionally, unfamiliar drivers in the opposite direction, especially those making left turns, may assume that since they are not regulated by STOP signs, the opposing through traffic is also not regulated and thus they should yield when turning.

While adding STOP signs to the westbound NH 43 approach and converting the intersection to an all-way stop could address some of the confusion related to the current intersection control, there is concern that the resulting delay would cause unacceptable queues for westbound traffic, especially during the morning commute. Therefore, the NHDOT will collect intersection turning movement counts and conduct intersection capacity analysis and simulation to better understand the implications of all-way stop control.

In the short term, the NHDOT will complete the following modifications to improve intersection safety and operation:

1. Replace the 36" STOP signs to the right of both the Old Candia Road and NH 43 northbound approaches with 48" STOP signs.
2. Install flashing beacons with solar power along with the new STOP signs mentioned above. While the town prefers STOP signs with integrated LED lights along the border, the NHDOT has adopted the solar-powered flashing beacon as the standard for enhancing STOP sign recognition at rural intersections. Should the town prefer the STOP sign with LED lights, the NHDOT would allow them to be installed and maintained by the town through a maintenance agreement.
3. Install new "TRAFFIC FROM RIGHT (LEFT) DOES NOT STOP" plaques below the STOP signs for the NH 43 and Old Manchester Road approaches, respectively. Increase the size of the plaque below the new 48" STOP sign for the NH 43 approach, along with the "ONCOMING TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP" plaque for the new STOP sign for the Old Candia Road approach, in proportion to the associated STOP sign.

Additionally, the NHDOT will consider removing the left turn lane for the Old Candia Road approach to give it more of the appearance of a minor approach. In the short term, this will be accomplished with pavement markings only, but it may be formalized at a later date by removing the pavement and increasing the size of the raised island.

The NHDOT is prepared to implement these changes within our summer 2025 work program. Lastly, the modifications described above do not change the unorthodox intersection configuration. If crashes or safety concerns persist at this intersection, the next logical step, short of a comprehensive capital improvement through the State's Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP), would be the implementation of all-way stop control.

Should you have further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call.

Best regards,



William R. Lambert, PE, Administrator  
Highway Safety/Active Transportation

Cc: Honorable John Stephen, Executive Council District 4  
Honorable Kevin Verville, Representative, Rockingham – District 2  
William Cass, NHDOT Commissioner  
Dave Rodrigue, NHDOT Assistant Commissioner  
Rich Radwanski, NHDOT District 5 Engineer  
Lee Baronas, NHDOT State Traffic Engineer