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Memorandum

To: Land Use Committee
From: Brian J. Miller, AICP, Town Planning Consultant
Max Stach, AICP
Subject: Potential Transportation Deficiencies
Date: September 21, 2010

Based upon the findings of the Transportation Background memorandum, we have identified several potential deficiencies within the transportation network. These are offered for discussion by the Committee. Ultimately, they will be addressed in the Plan update.

1. In many communities, the railroad station is a focal point within the community core. The Beacon Falls railroad station does not have the physical characteristics to serve that role. A railroad station building, which may include room for business uses, would enhance the transit options of Beacon Falls residents and businesses.
2. The Industrial Park area along Lopus Road and Lopus Road Extension does not have good accessibility. One element of this is the bottom of Lopus Road as it intersects Route 42.
3. The circulation system is very automobile-oriented, with few accommodations in town for pedestrian circulation.
4. Similarly, there are no accommodations for other non-motorized transportation, such as bicycle paths.
5. As noted in previous studies, Main Street has excess capacity, and can be reduced in size to accommodate downtown revitalization.
6. The narrow pavement width and geometry of the collector roads are important components of the town's rural character. However, they do result in some safety issues.
7. Standards for new streets should be evaluated as to actual need and environmental impact.

8. Access to the Route 8 Expressway from Beacon Falls is not direct and efficient. Specifically, it does not provide efficient access to the center of Town. However, the DOT study underway does not contemplate dramatic improvements to Route 8 within Beacon Falls.
9. Vehicles travel at high speed along Route 42, through residential neighborhoods of Beacon Falls.

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