

Report By: TJS Date: 08/22 Checked By: EPF Date: 08/22 Recommended By:	STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF THE STATE TRAFFIC ADMINISTRATION TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION REPORT	OSTA No.: 174-2205-01 Loc. No.: Approved by OSTA
See Previous Traffic Investigation Report No.: 174-9708-01 and 174-8506-03		Date:
Requested By: Speck, LaCava, Brinton First Selectmen How Requested: Memorandum Date: March 24, 2022	Towns of Washington and Warren Location: Route 45 (East Shore Road/Lake Road) from SSR 478 (West Shore Road) to Curtiss Road	
		EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Recommendations:

1. Approve a change in the speed limit from 40 mph to 35 mph for both directions of travel on Route 45 (East Shore Road) in the Town of Washington from SSR 478 (West Shore Road) (mile point 0.56) northerly to the Warren Town Line (mile point 1.71), a distance of 1.15 miles.
2. Approve a change in the speed limit from 45 mph to 35 mph for both directions of travel on Route 45 (Lake Road) in the Town of Warren from the Washington Town Line (mile point 1.71) northerly to SSR 478 (North Shore Road) (mile point 2.15), a distance of 0.44 miles.
3. Approve a change in the speed limit from 45 mph to 40 mph for both directions of travel on Route 45 (Lake Road) in the Town of Warren from SSR 478 (North Shore Road) (mile point 2.15) northerly to Curtiss Road (mile point 2.79), a distance of 0.64 miles.

First Selectman James L. Brinton, the Washington Local Traffic Authority concurred with the recommendations on August 18, 2022.

First Selectman Gregory LaCava, the Warren Local Traffic Authority concurred with the recommendations on August 18, 2022.

Report of Findings:

As a result of a memorandum from the First Selectmen of the towns of Kent, Warren and Washington requesting a traffic study for the roads surrounding Lake Waramaug, a speed limit review has been conducted on Route 45 (East Shore Road and Lake Road) from SSR 478 (West Shore Road) in the Town of Washington to Curtiss Road in the Town of Warren.

Route 45 in Washington and Warren is an undivided, bi-directional, two-lane major collector roadway varying between 31-34 feet wide, with 11-12 foot lanes and 4-6 foot shoulders and is also designated as a Scenic Roadway.

The section of Route 45 in Washington from SSR 478 (North Shore Road) to the Warren Town Line traverses a sparsely settled residential area with Lake Waramaug on the westerly side of the roadway and an embankment along the easterly side, present for a majority of the length of the roadway.

The section of Route 45 in Warren from the Washington Town Line in Warren to SSR 478 (North Shore Road) is similar in character to the section of Route 45 in Washington. There is also a marked crosswalk along this section, located approximately 400 feet north of the Washington Town Line.

The section of Route 45 in Warren from SSR 478 (North Shore Road) to Curtiss Road is similar in character to the previously described sections of Route 45; however, less pedestrian and bicycle activity and curb cuts are present. This section serves as a transitional segment to the straighter section of Route 45 north of Curtiss Road, where the approved speed limit will remain 45 mph.

The grades are flat to moderate for all three segments and all have a curvilinear horizontal alignment that cannot be driven comfortably at the currently posted 40 or 45 mph speed limits, necessitating the installation of horizontal geometry warning signs at many curve locations. The existing horizontal geometry warning signs meet the Department's latest standards. There are no sidewalks on the road, and the latest available average daily traffic volume, recorded in 2020, varied between 1,500 - 2,100 vehicles per day. An analysis of the three-year crash experience from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021 on these sections of Route 45 revealed a total of six crashes, five of which were single vehicle crashes, with only one crash resulting in injury.

The latest available speed data near the intersection of SSR 478 (West Shore Road) indicated an 85th percentile speed of 37 mph and a 50th percentile speed of 33 mph. Near the intersection of SSR 478 (North Shore Road), the recorded 85th percentile speed was 50 mph, and the recorded 50th percentile speed was 43 mph. The USLIMITS2 computer program, provided by the Federal Highway Administration, was also utilized to affirm the proposed speed limit reductions.

Based on the above, as well as trial runs, ball bank testing, and engineering judgment, the results of the study indicated that the recommended changes to the Route 45 speed limits are appropriate due to the roadway characteristics and the pedestrian and bicycle activity associated with Lake Waramaug. Service Memorandum 102591 will be issued for the signing required for the changes in speed limits. The work will be completed by the Department's maintenance forces as their scheduling permits.

TOWNS OF KENT, WARREN, WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Joseph Ouellette – Executive Director of the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA)

FROM: Jean C. Speck, First Selectman, Town of Kent
Gregory LaCava, First Selectman, Town of Warren
James L. Brinton, First Selectman, Town of Washington

DATE: March 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Request for Traffic Study

Dear Mr. Ouellette

As the legal traffic authority for our respective municipalities, we are requesting OSTA consider taking timely action on several critical safety improvements to the roads surrounding Lake Waramaug.

As you are likely aware from the Road Safety Audit (attached herein) conducted in 2017, density in population as well as pedestrian, vehicle, and cycling traffic around the Lake has increased significantly. From the outset of the pandemic, the numbers in the audit have grown two-fold in all three municipalities bordering the lake, and the conditions have become especially hazardous for cyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles during the busy summer tourism months.

In addition, enclosed is a report from the Lake Waramaug Association, a local not-for-profit organization that has obtained community input from local residents in support of critical road safety improvements. The requested improvements include speed limit reduction on Route 45 and a traffic calming measures (ie: crosswalks) at various locations. Please see the attached supporting letter from the Lake Waramaug Association and testimonials from the community.

Our goal is to ensure the safety of all those who live, visit, and work around the lake. We respectfully request that you consider the requests contained herein, and if necessary, conduct a traffic study toward that end. We look forward to scheduling a meeting with you to discuss the attached and enclosed as soon as possible.

Jean C. Speck
Gregory LaCava
James L. Brinton