



Town of Wardensville

25 Warrior Way · PO Box 7 · Wardensville WV 26851-0007  
phone (304) 874 3950 · fax (304) 874 4044 · info@wardensville.com

December 12, 2022

Mr. Travis Long, Director  
Technical Support Division  
West Virginia Division of Highways  
Charleston, WV 25302  
Charleston, WV 25303

Re: Corridor H Comments

Dear Travis:

Greetings from Wardensville, WV. Thank you for your efforts to address the concerns of Council regarding Corridor H. Please consider the following comments related to my earlier letter regarding the Corridor H project:

**What will be the impact on the Town's water source?** We are working together to create a MOU between the Town and WVDOH regarding a contingency plan should the Town's water source be harmed by the construction of the road. We are waiting to see the proposed agreement. On a curious note...will property owners be encouraged to test their wells prior to construction? We have learned that wells were impacted due to the construction of the Columbia Gas line in the county. As a result, property owners were left to resolve the matter on their own.

Keeping in the theme of "water". A new concern is how will storm water runoff be addressed? Flooding in our area is a result of stormwater runoff from Anderson Ridge. With the cut that will be done to Anderson Ridge there is concern that there may be an increase in runoff.

**What will be the impact on the J. Allen Hawkins Community Park?** It was shared that the park will not be impacted. During the meeting I inquired about the land that may become available during the ROW acquisition. If there is property that is adjacent to our park, Council would like to discuss how we might acquire it. We have submitted a REC Trails Design Grant from WVDOH to develop a combination mountain bike and hiking trails on the park property on the other side of Waites Run. We are asking that you share information on the NEPA study that you are doing for the endangered species. If it is possible to expand the area to include the area of the park, we would like to include that would be great. If not,

The Town of Wardensville is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

we understand and would ask for the contact information of the company/group that you are using for your work, as they are already familiar with the area. We would like to contact them should our Rec Trails Planning Application be selected.

The alignment will not impact the park. I wanted to ask about adjacent properties that appear to be taken for the alignment. I wanted to know if the Town might be able to obtain ownership of property adjacent to the park to expand its boundaries. Previously, I believe residual property was sold at auction where the corridor currently ends. In a similar note, I wanted to see if you would be able to share NEPA information with us. The Town has applied for a Recreational Trails Design Grant and should we be successful, we hope to build a 3-to-4-mile combination IMBA bike/hiking trail on our property across Waites Run. We will need to construct a bridge to access the trail and provide for emergency vehicle access if needed.

**What are the plans for improvement to the access and feeder roads at the points where the Corridor intersects/accesses Trout Run Road and Waites Run Road, the two key points to Wardensville?**

I wanted to ask if Carpenter's Avenue was looked at as a possible access point? I'm concerned that the Trout Run Access point might be a hinderance to travelers' (Driver missed the exit and opts to continue driving). If Carpenter's Avenue was not considered, could it be? I believe it would be more beneficial for our businesses. Please see the photo below. Corridor H has long been touted as an economic driver for the region. Can you provide the most recent economic enhancement/sustainability study? Council is concerned that the placement of the exits will have a negative impact on the town's economy.

Lastly, I wanted to inquire about having Route 55 being designated as a scenic byway. The section of Route 55 in Virginia is designated as a scenic byway. I believe the byway designation would be a benefit in attracting tourists. What would it take to get Route 55 designated as a scenic byway?

Sincerely,

The TOWN OF WARDENSVILLE



Betsy Orndoff-Sayers, Mayor

