

PINEBUSH TRANSPORTATION STUDY UPDATE



2000 PM Peak Hour Midblock Level of Service in the City of Albany and the Towns of Guilderland and Colonie, New York.

Total Study Cost: \$20,000 CDTC Staff Activity

Description: This study updates the 1985 *Pinebush Area Transportation Study* by examining changes in the transportation system that have occurred over the last 15 years as a result of extensive development in the study area.

The findings indicate that travelers have altered their travel schedule and route to avoid periods of heavy congestion. While there was a large amount of development in the study area the traffic did not grow in the afternoon peak period. Average travel speeds along New Karner Road, Washington Avenue Extension and Western Avenue did not deteriorate greatly, and in some cases improved. That said, there was a significant increase in the percentage of traffic in the off peak hours.

Due to the change in traffic patterns the recommendations set forth in the 1985 study were reevaluated. All of the low cost improvements recommended in the 1985 study, such as consolidating driveways, signal coordination, and adding turn lanes and approach lanes, all remain valid. These improvements were urged to have an eye toward bicycle and pedestrian accommodation. The prior recommendation for widening New Karner Road is not warranted given that peak hour traffic has not grown. Long-range strategies for New Karner Road were suggested, one of which was the conversion of the facility into a “parkway” with advanced design treatment for wildlife crossing.

This study was completed in September 2004.

To view the final report, visit <http://www.cdtcmpo.org/linkage/pinebush/pinebush.htm>.

Sponsors: CDTC and Albany County

Consultant: None – CDTC Staff Activity.