

NEW KARNER ROAD (NY 155), FROM US 20 TO NY 5: CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS: A295

Post 2014 Funding: \$15.4 M Construction (STP-Flex); \$0.75 M Right-of-way (STP-Flex)

History:

- First programmed in the 1993-1998 TIP as a widening from 2 to 4 lanes with a 50% local share from mitigation fees. Recommendation was from the 1990 Pinebush Transportation Study.
- Project was reviewed for the 1997-2002 TIP. Scope of work description was changed to reflect corridor improvements on New Karner Road.
- An environmental study was conducted during 1999 as part of the TIP Project. This study made it clear that "*widening NY 155 may impact the viability of existing Karner Blue as well as other threatened and endangered species because wider highways are expected to be a greater hindrance, if not a complete barrier to dispersal*".
- The 2004 Pinebush Transportation Linkage Study indicated a widening of New Karner was not necessary but intersection and other improvements should be considered.
- The project scope of work was reduced as part of the New Visions Plan update in 2004 (New Visions 2025) following completion of the Linkage study.
- An updated scope of work was adopted as part of New Visions 2030 in 2007. That process reviewed projects in the post five year TIP and identified the following as the scope for the project: "*Reconstruct the existing facility with 2 lane cross section from US 20 (Western Avenue) to NY 5 with some capacity improvements at intersections. Project includes increasing the capacity of the Washington Avenue Extension intersection with New Karner Road*". Private funds are not likely to be available.
- Albany County completed a "Safe Track" project for New Karner Road between Western Ave. and Watervliet Shaker Rd. in 2007. This project was 100% County funded at \$3.7 M. Improvements included concrete pavement repairs, asphalt overlay, stormwater improvements, added turn lanes at Pinehurst Blvd. and made signal improvements, and added turn lanes at Charles Park/Corporate Circle.

Status:

- Albany County's plan is to implement the recommendations of the Pinebush Transportation Study Update completed by the CDTC staff in September 2004.
- The County plans to begin preliminary design in 2011-12 as programmed in the current TIP. The project scope of work is as follows:
 - ◆ Driveway consolidations, signal coordination, bike/ped improvements
 - ◆ Old State Road/New Karner Road intersection improvements including a possible roundabout to address PM peak hour capacity and rear end crash issues. Also investigate a possible realignment to create a four way intersection/roundabout at VFW drive.
 - ◆ Long range New Karner Road improvements including the conversion of the facility into a "parkway" with advanced design treatment for wildlife crossings (as suggested by the Pine Bush Commission) and advanced design treatment at remaining intersections (such as roundabouts).
 - ◆ New Karner Road/Washington Avenue Extension improvements including exploration of a roundabout or other long term option.
- Funding for the longer-range strategies cannot be expected to include the degree of private financing that had been anticipated when the widening project was added to the TIP in 1993. CDTC will need to explore the ability of routine sources of highway funding (TIP funding) to support some or all of the longer-range concepts; any linear work such as parkway creation would not be scheduled to occur prior to the end of the life of the pavement repairs completed in 2007.