

Assurance of Safety at the Jacksonville Road and Greenfield Road Intersection In response to Annual Town Meeting Article 45, June 4, 2024

To the residents of Colrain,

We, along with the Police Chief, Highway Superintendent, and Town Administrator, would like to reassure the public about the safety of the Jacksonville Road and Greenfield Road intersection. Over the past several years, a comprehensive series of improvements has been implemented, ensuring the safety of drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists alike.

These improvements were informed by two critical studies: the Road Safety Audit for Main Road/Jacksonville Road (Route 112) & Greenfield Road (October 2017) and the Road Safety Planning Study (Project No.: E2X69147, August 5, 2019). Both documents were prepared for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and provided essential guidance for the upgrades made between 2018 and 2023. The improvements were completed using federal transportation improvement and state grant funds.

Completed Improvements:

- Reconstruction of the Main Road, Jacksonville Road, and Greenfield Road intersection, realigning approach roadways to enhance safety and traffic efficiency, while also ensuring full pedestrian accommodations.
- Installation of 5-foot-wide bicycle lanes along the roadways, offering safe spaces for cyclists.
- New sidewalks on the south side of Main Road and both sides of Jacksonville Road, improving pedestrian safety and accessibility.
- ADA-compliant wheelchair ramps at all pedestrian crossings.
- Pavement reconstruction and improved drainage systems, addressing long-term roadway durability and reducing flooding risks.

Additional Improvements per the Road Safety Planning Study - Colrain, MA (Document No.: E2X69147, prepared by Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., August 5, 2019):

Additional Short-Term Improvements (2019–2021):

- Enhanced base level signage to provide better advance warning, especially near the town center, with reminders of road and speed conditions ahead. This also included chevron markers and improved pavement markings for better delineation and driver guidance.
- Collection of baseline data on heavy vehicle speeds and volumes on Greenfield Road, helping us better understand traffic behavior and inform future planning.

Medium-Term Improvements (2021–2023):

- Installation of an overhead gantry sign approximately 2 miles from the town center, with flashing warning beacons activated by oncoming heavy vehicles.
- Speed feedback signs were installed to inform truck drivers of their speed as they approach and descend the hill, promoting safer driving.

- Dynamic and static messaging and flashing beacons on the overhead gantry, designed to provide specific warnings to slow trucks and alerts to shift downward.

These improvements, informed by the Colrain Road Safety Planning Study and the Road Safety Audit, have had a substantial impact. Our ongoing monitoring confirms that these enhancements have contributed to improved road safety for all users, as we have seen a reduction in crashes and safer driving behaviors in this area.

We remain committed to ensuring the continued safety of Colrain's roadways and using the plans noted, we will continue to implement further upgrades recommended as they become a priority.

Sincerely,

Colrain Select Board

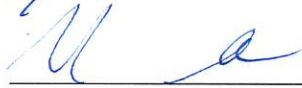
Emily Thurber
Ben Eastman
Katie Korby



Christopher Lannon, Police Chief



Nicholas Anzuoni, Fire Chief



Nate Gilbert, Highway Superintendent



Diana Parsons, Town Administrator