

VA and NYSDOT to Implement Traffic Safety Enhancements in Genesee County

Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) jointly announced a number of actions to add enhanced traffic safety measures at the intersection of State Route 77 and Indian Falls Road, near the Western New York National Cemetery, in Genesee County, New York.

Following concerns raised by the community and elected officials, the VA conducted the 2022 “Western New York Traffic Analysis and Safety Study,” which noted that the new National Cemetery contributes to 1.9% of overall traffic through the intersection during weekdays and 0.8% on weekends. The 90 public responses received during the 15-day public comment period between May 10-26, 2022, demonstrated the public's support for making some safety enhancements at the intersection. Of the 90 responses received, 43 comments (47.7%) supported the implementation of enhanced signage and lights at the intersection of State Route 77 and Indian Falls Road. Additionally, 38 comments (42.2%) expressed no opinion on the construction of a new roundabout at the intersection, 32 comments (35.5%) opposed construction of a roundabout, while 20 comments (22.2%) supported the implementation of a roundabout at the intersection.

The traffic analysis and safety study concluded that the intersection meets the U.S. Federal Highway Administration’s Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards used nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public travel. This intersection also comports with the Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and NYSDOT standards for sight distance. This traffic analysis and safety study also concurred with the 2015 and 2016 studies conducted by VA and a 2020 analysis conducted by NYSDOT.

Working in consultation with NYSDOT, the VA is committed to enhancing the safety of the intersection for all users of the road. Both agencies have agreed to work together to ensure the following enhanced safety measures are implemented:

- Eliminating existing departure passing zones at the Indian Falls Road intersection;
- Installing rumble strips (shoulder and centerline) on State Route 77;
- Installing flashing intersection warning devices along State Route 77;
- Installing larger, right and left stop signs, with reflective posts on Indian Falls Road, including placard for “CROSS TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP;”
- Adding “STOP” pavement markings on Indian Falls Road; and
- Installing larger “INTERSECTION” signs on State Route 77.

The VA and NYSDOT appreciate the insights raised during the public comment period and are committed to implementing these safety enhancements by the fall of 2022.

Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Matt Quinn said, “VA appreciates the extensive public feedback we received to this latest Traffic Analysis and Safety Study. Their feedback was instrumental in determining the course of action we are announcing today. We’re also grateful for the continued collaboration with NYSDOT as we address the community’s concerns and implement these safety enhancements.”

New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez said, “The State Department of Transportation thanks the VA for its diligent work and agrees with the study’s findings that the current intersection is consistent with federal and state engineering safety standards. The VA has amended its highway work permit and our maintenance forces will assist them with some of these enhanced safety features along this intersection.”

The completed “2022 Western New York Traffic Analysis and Safety Study,” including all the public comments submitted by the deadline, can be found at the following web address [Environmental Program Office - Office of Construction & Facilities Management \(va.gov\)](https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/). <https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/>