

**TOWN OF LINCOLN
62 QUAKER ST
LINCOLN, VT 05443**

December 9, 2019

Mr. Wayne Symonds, P.E.
Highway Division Director / Chief Engineer
Vermont Agency of Transportation
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001

Dear Mr. Symonds,

The Town of Lincoln Select Board requests that VTRANS minimize the dangers present at the intersection of Rt. 116 and Lincoln River Road in the Town of Bristol. River Road is the primary access for Lincoln residents to and from locations to the North (Starksboro, Hinesburg and Burlington) and to the West (Bristol, New Haven, Vergennes, Middlebury and Rt. 7). More than 1,000 vehicles a day use this River Road intersection with Rt.116.

Drivers about to enter the intersection from River Road have difficulty seeing vehicles approaching on Rt. 116 from the West. Vehicles traveling from the West on Rt. 116 are hidden by the bridge railing for three to five seconds depending on their speed. This is just enough time for drivers to mistakenly believe they can safely make a left or right turn at the intersection onto Rt. 116. The bridge railing conceals vehicles coming at them at 40-60 MPH (the legal speed limit at this intersection is 40 MPH). The situation is exacerbated in the winter by the snow pushed up against the railing by state plow trucks.

The attached images illustrate the problem. These images were shot sequentially at roughly one second intervals. In sequence 1, the green vehicle disappears from view for several frames as does the gray vehicle in sequence two. Both of these sequences make clear the danger of the bridge railing's concealment of the vehicles.

In order to see the vehicles on the bridge, drivers must venture further into the intersection (beyond the stop line) than feels safe. This is not an acceptable risk for Lincoln residents and others using this intersection.

A possible solution is to move the intersection further to the East – there is a small plot of land that could be used for this purpose without a lot of work. In fact, Bristol may own this as a Right-of-Way.

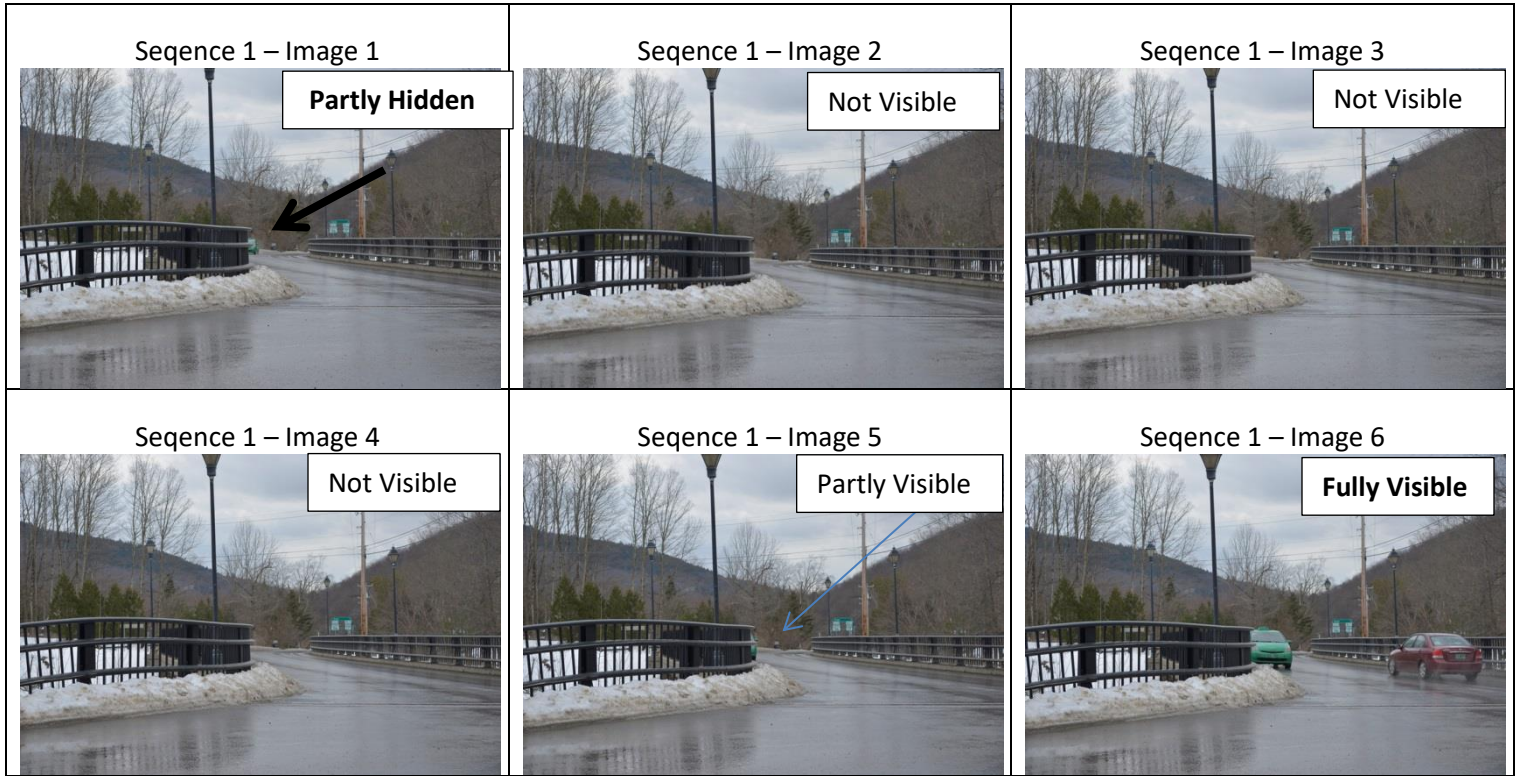
We urgently request that you review and rectify this situation so as to minimize the dangers presented at the intersection of River Road and Rt. 116 in the Town of Bristol.

Sincerely,

Paul Forlenza
Lincoln Select Board Vice Chair
802-989-1070
pforlenza@lincolnvermont.org

cc: Joel Bouvier, Bristol Select Board Chair
Valarie Capels, Bristol Town Administrator
Bill Finger, Lincoln Select Board Chair
Mike Winslow, Transportation Planner, Addison County Regional Planning Commission

SEQUENCE 1



SEQUENCE 2

