

# Sen. Hosmer gets involved in Main Street intersection problems

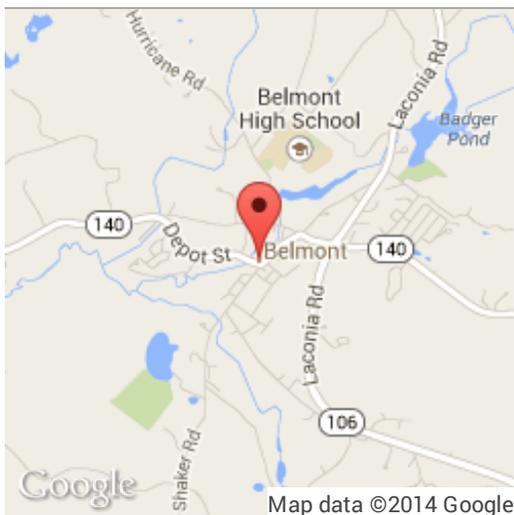
By TIM CAMERATO | Jul 15, 2014

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TIM CAMERATO/CITIZEN

SEN. ANDREW HOSMER, left, speaks with Lt. Richard Mann, center, and Selectman Chair Ruth Mooney about the Route 140 and Main Street intersection on Monday.



**BELMONT** — State Sen. Andrew Hosmer is offering to help Belmont find a fix to problems at the New Hampshire Route 140 and Main Street intersection. Hosmer toured the intersection with town officials on Monday to see what issues need to be addressed.

During Hosmer's legislative update to the Board of Selectmen on July 7, Chairman Ruth Mooney said the town was having trouble with the intersection.

“One of the biggest issues is that we have an issue with the pavement just being gone and holes showing up in patch jobs,” Mooney said. “It was easy for the state to come in and pave 140 from just outside of town to Tilton as well as 140 outside of town, to Gilmanton, but avoid a major problem that we have.”

Mooney said the community has put a lot of work into improving the village. She said the intersection deters from what they've done.

"I would be more than happy to work with you and make an appeal to the Department of Transportation or whomever may assist in that," Hosmer said.

Hosmer said he would also be willing to take a walk to the intersection and see the problems himself.

He got that chance on Monday, accompanied by Mooney, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Building Official Steven Paquin, and Police Lt. Richard Mann.

"Basically, they need to look at this intersection," Mooney said. "There's so many hazards right here and nobody wants to take the bull by the horns. Nobody wants to help us."

Hosmer said he thinks it's become too common for the state government to downshift responsibilities and financial burdens.

"They turn roads over to municipalities, then municipalities really can't afford to maintain them," Hosmer said. "It takes so much effort to get somebody from DOT out here to take a look at this and appreciate what's going on."

Mooney said there's a lot of people that avoid the intersection because of the danger and traffic. With improvements planned for Shaker Road's and Jamestown Road's intersections with Route 140, Mooney said more people will be using the town's back roads.

"It's almost like they're doing whatever they can to avoid having to address the major problem," Mooney said.

Susan Soucie, a civil engineer with NHDOT District 3, said the ultimate goal is to ground and pave the area in the next two months.

"We have been cold patching it and we have put some hot mix out last Wednesday," Soucie said.

Soucie said the hot mix is holding. While she hasn't been a part of talks to improve the intersection, Soucie said she is open to meeting with town officials and reviewing possible options.

Last August, the NHDOT set up an automatic traffic recorder on Route 140 west of Johnson Street. They found that, on the average weekday, about 8,000 cars were traveling the road and the busiest times were between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Mann said there have been nine accidents at the intersection in the last four years. There's also been two each at the Main Street intersection with Fuller Street and Gail Street.

Hosmer said the next step is to get NHDOT officials out to the intersection to do a traffic count, survey, and figure out how to best reconfigure the road. He said he has scheduled Commissioner Chris Clement to visit the Lakes Region, and would like to add the intersection to his visit.

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