Traffic backs up at the intersection of Rte. 140 and Main Street in Belmont yesterday, in the lower part of the picture is the cold patch that officials claim is a temporary fix for a significant traffic hazard and they would like to state to come up with a more permanent solution. (Laconia Daily Sun Photo/Call Ober)

Belmont wants DOT to deal with giant pothole at key intersection

BY GAIK OBER
THE LACONIA DAILY SUN

BELMONT — State Senator Andrew Hosmer (D-Laconia) will be meeting with selectmen at 8:30 p.m. Monday to review the intersection at Rte. 140 and Main Street.

Hosmer set the appointment after he appeared at his regularly scheduled update with selectmen last Monday and learned this particular section of Rte. 140 has declined to the point where it has become dangerous.

Although it runs through Belmont Village, it is a state highway and the town cannot repair any pot-holes or replace the intersection.

Police Chief Mark Lewandoski told the senator that during the heavy rains the area saw two weeks ago, a nearly two-foot deep pot hole developed in the center of the intersection after the cold patch washed away.

He said a hole that size poses a real risk to motorists — especially motorcycles traveling after dark.

The N.H. Department of Transportation fixed the pot hole with cold patch but Lewandoski and selectmen fear the next time the area sees any heavy rains, it will wash away again and get even bigger.

As of yesterday, the circular cold patch measures about eight to 10 feet in diameter and appears to be intact.

Selectboard Chair Ruth Mooney told Hosmer that the town has repeatedly reached out to the Department of Transportation for a more permanent repair to the intersection but hasn’t gotten any positive news.

She said that since the town has spent so much money on the village revitalization project so that the village has such a nice fresh look, she feels the state should make some effort to find and fund a permanent fix for the very busy intersection.

Hosmer agreed. He told them he travels that section of Rte. 3 regularly on his way to work in Tilton and has noticed how bad it is at times.

Although he made no promises, he did say that he would meet with the board and inspect the intersection with them.