

January 18, 2021

Mr. John Elsesser, Town Manager
1712 Main Street
Coventry, CT 06238

Dear John,

Thank you for sharing the Coventry Traffic Authority report with me. I appreciate the massive data involved and the work it took to compile the findings. Thank you to all the team, especially Todd Penney town engineer, who worked to complete the task. I agree that a follow up report done post construction on the Rt.44 intersection should be illuminating.

For my own information I needed numbers that I could wrap my head around concerning the weekly/daily counts for Swamp road in particular. The summary report page for Swamp road covers statistics for the ten day test period. My observations are based primarily on those numbers reported on the Vehicles Sizes Analysis page for Swamp road and those collected for Swamp road speeds. I used the Swamp road tallies for 9/3, 9/4, 9/5, 9/6, 9/7, 9/8, and 9/9 to get a weekly/daily picture.

The report shows a total of 8,413 vehicles traveled on Swamp road during that week. Using the >20 foot long factor used in your letter to identify vehicles as being trucks, a total of 289 of those vehicles were trucks or about 41 trucks per day.

Posted speed limits on Swamp road are 20mph and 30mph. Vehicles traveling 45-50mph totaled 866 for this same week and those over 50mph accounted for 274 additional vehicles. Combined totals for the week show 1,140 or 163 vehicles per day exceed the posted limit.

I look at these findings and think of the pedestrians, bicyclists, or kids walking their pets, who have 41 chances a day to be hit by a truck. I've seen first hand how one must step off the road to be safe from either trucks or speeding cars. The answer to stopping commercial traffic on rural roads won't be found by pitting one alternate route against another: Swamp vs. Brewster vs. Silver. Even if these Coventry roads were declared "off limits" the next short cut between Rt.44 & Rt.6 would be South Road or Stony Road in Bolton, literally sending our problem down the road. Speeding can be controlled by strict and consistent enforcement.

It will be up to town planners to protect the people and quality of life in their neighborhoods by joining together with other communities and putting commercial traffic back on the highways. In our case, the Bolton Notch connector is already available and built to handle these heavy loads without endangering the public. Each town at the mercy of commercial vehicles pays the price of repairing their overwhelmed roads over and over again.

Sincerely,



Colleen Robbins

Cc: Todd Penney, Town Engineer
Mark A. Palmer, Coventry Police Chief
Lisa Thomas, Town Council