

## Roundabout Q & As: Chamber Meeting 10/5

The following questions were posed at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting organized by the Chamber of Commerce, and Town Manager Richard J. Johnson and Dan Pennington provided the verbal responses below. Questions regarding Town communications were answered by the Town's Marketing & Communications Specialist, Kathryn Paquette. If you have additional questions, or suggestions as to how we can improve the Town's communication with the local business community, please contact Kathryn at [marketing@glastonbury-ct.gov](mailto:marketing@glastonbury-ct.gov).

### **Question: Why do the contractors stop working before the end of the work day? Can they work longer hours to reduce the overall timeline to complete the roundabout project?**

**Answer:** The Contractor constructing the Hebron Ave / New London Turnpike roundabout is not prohibited from working longer than normal work days but is not required to do so. Allowable time for overall project completion is defined in the Contract and liquidated damages may be applied for delays within the Contractor's control. Overly aggressive Contract lengths typically result in a reduction in the number of companies bidding a given project and a cost prohibitive premium for the overtime wages. The Town will investigate reasonable means for reducing the overall contract length for the planned 2018 construction. Bid alternates may possibly be included to allow for more precise evaluation of expedited schedules. There are several factors that affect the contractors' work schedule. Firstly, analysis for extended hours was determined to be cost prohibitive. The contractors who have resources to work such hours generally do not participate in smaller projects of this scope. Secondly, portions of the Hebron Avenue corridor include residential property and therefore roundabout construction schedules were conscious of noise disruptions. Lastly, the contracted vendor do not have the resources to work extended hours, as they have other projects they're working on concurrently and again, doing so would be cost prohibitive to the Town.

### **Question: In the initial town meetings, it was stated that each leg of the roundabout would be closed for 4 week and ¾ of the roundabout would remain operational throughout the process, but some legs were closed for longer than planned. Why didn't the project follow the originally outlined schedule?**

**Answer:** There are many factors which affect a construction project schedule, many of which are out of the control of the Town and the contractors completing the work. The factors that influenced the roundabout legs longer than anticipated closures were contractor resource availability and undocumented utilities being discovered underground. Glastonbury's Engineering staff and project team did a great deal of research in the planning process to identify utilities equipment that would be underground in the construction zone, however some were discovered and took time to safely remove.

### **Question: Can the businesses in the project zone receive a tax waiver?**

**Answer:** No, unfortunately not. State laws dictate what the Tax Collector's office can do in regards to taxes and unfortunately this is prohibited. State statutes also prohibit a waiver of interest charges on delinquent taxes. For those business owners concerned with tax payments, the Town Manager suggested speaking with the Assessor's office during the 2017 Revaluation. Business owners can schedule a meeting with the Assessor's office and ask them to consider a reduction in the assessment of their property for the duration of the roundabout project currently underway, as well as the House/Hebron roundabout and pavement rehabilitation scheduled for 2018.

### **Question: The truck apron looks way too high. Can an emergency vehicle, truck, or plow get through?**

**Answer:** The height differential between the truck apron and the circular roadway was present before the final finish grade was applied. As of Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, this final pavement grade has been completed and the height

differential has been significantly reduced. By design, a slight height difference will remain to allow proper space for emergency vehicles and trucks to pass through.

**Question: I've read that other states have removed their roundabouts because they have found them ineffective. Why will Glastonbury's be different?**

**Answer:** The issues you're referencing may be in areas where Rotaries were implemented, not Roundabouts. People often use the terms interchangeably however they are markedly different traffic solutions. **Rotaries** allow motorists to travel at higher speeds and are much larger whereas **Roundabouts**, like the ones being implemented in Glastonbury, are focused on lower speeds, pedestrian walkways, and smaller overall footprints.

**Question: How are meetings publicized regarding the roundabout construction process?**

**Answer:** Notices are mailed out to all businesses and property owners within the project zone radius. These notices include information about upcoming meetings and construction that would affect their business/property. The Town also publishes meeting information on the town website, [www.glastonbury-ct.gov](http://www.glastonbury-ct.gov). Depending on the subject matter, special meetings have been publicized through the local media channels, the town's various e-newsletters such as the Sharing Tree and enotifications, and through the Chamber of Commerce as well. The Town's Marketing & Communications Specialist will share all updates with the local media as well as the chamber so that residents and business owners, even those outside the project bounds, will be up to date on all construction plans. Residents are also encouraged to visit the town's dedicated roundabout website page for the most up-to-date information. ([www.glastonbury-ct.gov/roundabout](http://www.glastonbury-ct.gov/roundabout).)

**Question: Why is the second roundabout at Hebron Ave/House Street necessary?**

**Answer:** The intersection of Hebron Avenue and House Street is a location that experiences a higher than average number of motor vehicle accidents. Glastonbury has been working with the State Department of Transportation (DOT) for years to identify a solution to improve the safety of this intersection. They hoped to install a traffic signal but the State DOT would not allow it. The joint solution to the safety concern is to implement the low speed roundabout and they believe it will improve the safety conditions at this intersection.

**Question: The second roundabout at House and Hebron Avenue is slated for construction starting next year. Will the proximity between the 2 roundabouts create a delay or bottleneck with traffic?**

**Answer:** No. The House/Hebron Avenue roundabout was designed for traffic flow with the Hebron/New London Turnpike roundabout in place. Consulting engineers retained utilized sophisticated traffic modeling software to test the traffic flow in that location to ensure, with a high level of confidence, that the traffic flow will be successful as designed. Additionally, because the House/Hebron roundabout is state funded, the State DOT has also tested and approved the design throughout each stage of the process, and they concur that the model will be successful as outlined.

**Question: How is the Town going to improve communications in the next roundabout?**

**Answer:** The Town has been using a number of communication channels to make construction updates and information available. There is a dedicated web page at [www.glastonbury-ct.gov/roundabout](http://www.glastonbury-ct.gov/roundabout) where updates are posted as available, as well as an enotification system where residents & business owners can subscribe to receive updates in real-time. Visit [www.glastonbury-ct.gov/enotify](http://www.glastonbury-ct.gov/enotify), enter your contact information, then scroll down under the News heading and Select the mail icon next to the "Roundabout Construction" category to sign up. The Town also publishes all updates on the [Town's Facebook page](#), (search for "Town of Glastonbury CT") and encourages all residents and local businesses to follow our page for updates. Additionally, we often share

roundabout updates with the local media and Chamber of Commerce to disperse throughout their networks. The Town Manager also offered to establish a workgroup of affected business owners, who could meet regularly throughout the Hebron/House roundabout project to provide feedback and suggested process improvements. We will use lessons learned and resident feedback to enhance communications with the local business community for the Hebron/House intersection and all future projects. The Town's Marketing & Communications Specialist will send all future roundabout updates to the Chamber to disseminate to their members and will continue to seek additional communication channels to publicize updates of this nature.