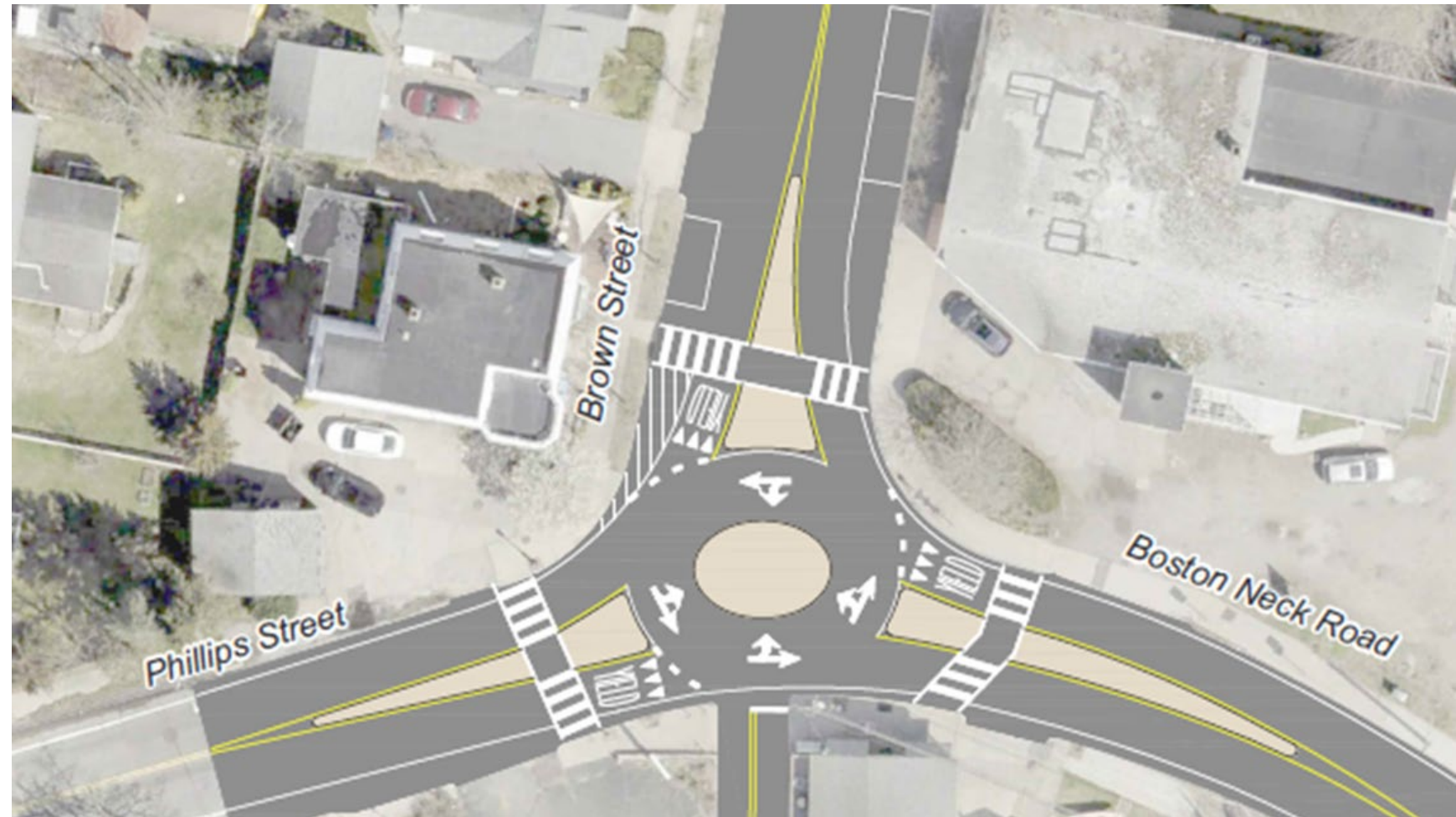


# Wickford Mini-Roundabout

## Update

- I look forward to providing historical and current data regarding the Mini-Roundabout and clarifying some misinformation.
- I want to thank the Town Council for providing an additional opportunity for anyone to speak on this topic under Public Comment at today's meeting.
  - This solution was first fully vetted at public meetings back in 2020 and 2021, where residents, business owners, public safety personnel and RI DOT representatives unanimously supported this proposal as the safest solution to this challenging intersection.



# Wickford Mini-Roundabout

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## History

- September 28, 2020, Town Council Meeting:

First Public Discussion of the Phillips/Brown/Boston Neck Rd. intersection.

- RI DOT confirmed this was a very unique, somewhat dangerous, and unconventional intersection.
- Substantial public comment followed, confirming concerns about the intersection with emphasis on both vehicular and passenger safety.
- Public safety personnel from both Police and Fire commands emphasized that a 3-way stop sign and traffic signal would result in major back-ups in Wickford Village; neither would be advantageous.

- November 16, 2020, RI DOT follow-up:

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration will not permit the use of pedestrian control or flashing beacons for a stop or yield.

Based on input from public safety, residents, and businesses, two options were recommended: Islands to be installed at each of the roads leading to the intersection, or a mini-roundabout sized appropriately for trucks and fire apparatus and would “be an aesthetic gateway for the village of Wickford.”

# Wickford Mini-Roundabout

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## History

- January 5, 2021

Subsequent meeting with State Traffic Commission, Chief Flanagan of NKPD, Chief Kettelle of NKFD, Planning Director Nicole Fontaine with myself and our Council President

Consensus from everyone in attendance was that the most beneficial option to improve safety at this intersection would be the mini-roundabout.

  - The mini-roundabout should not exceed 2-3" and should not have landscaping.
  - It will address pedestrian safety and would have a positive impact on traffic flow.
  - Universal consensus was that additional stop signs would be detrimental with the creation of public safety difficulties and increase traffic delays particularly on residential side streets.
- January 13, 2021

Unanimous endorsement of the mini-roundabout option received from the Wickford Advisory Committee.

# Wickford Mini-Roundabout

## History

- January 25, 2021



### Brown Street/Boston Neck Road/ Phillips Street Intersection Improvements

Town Council Meeting

January 25, 2021



The public process continued 12 days later, with a RI DOT presentation at a Town Council Meeting.



# Wickford Mini-Roundabout

## History

### Existing Conditions



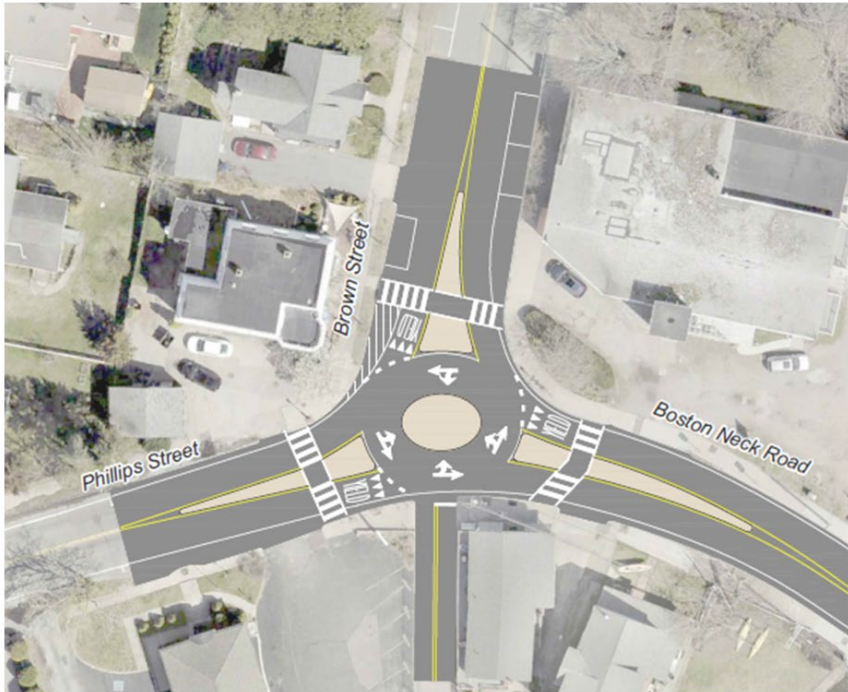
- January 25, 2021 (continued)

RI DOT took the opportunity to confirm that any additional stop or signal controls would add to the back-up in this area and would adversely affect the residential streets within Wickford.

# Wickford Mini-Roundabout

## History

### Proposed Improvement



- January 25, 2021 (continued)

RI DOT proceeded to explain that based on the discussions, public safety, and traffic concerns, as well as the wishes of businesses and residents in the area, they felt a mini-roundabout that would fit into the right-of-way and would be traversable by large and emergency vehicles, would be the recommended option.

RI DOT stated that there are numerous benefits to this option, including that:

- each direction has similar control and the same yield control
- pedestrian crossing is much shorter by creating a 20' crossing area
- it would positive affect on slowing the speed of vehicles
- and it would have a positively contributed to the aesthetics of the village of Wickford.

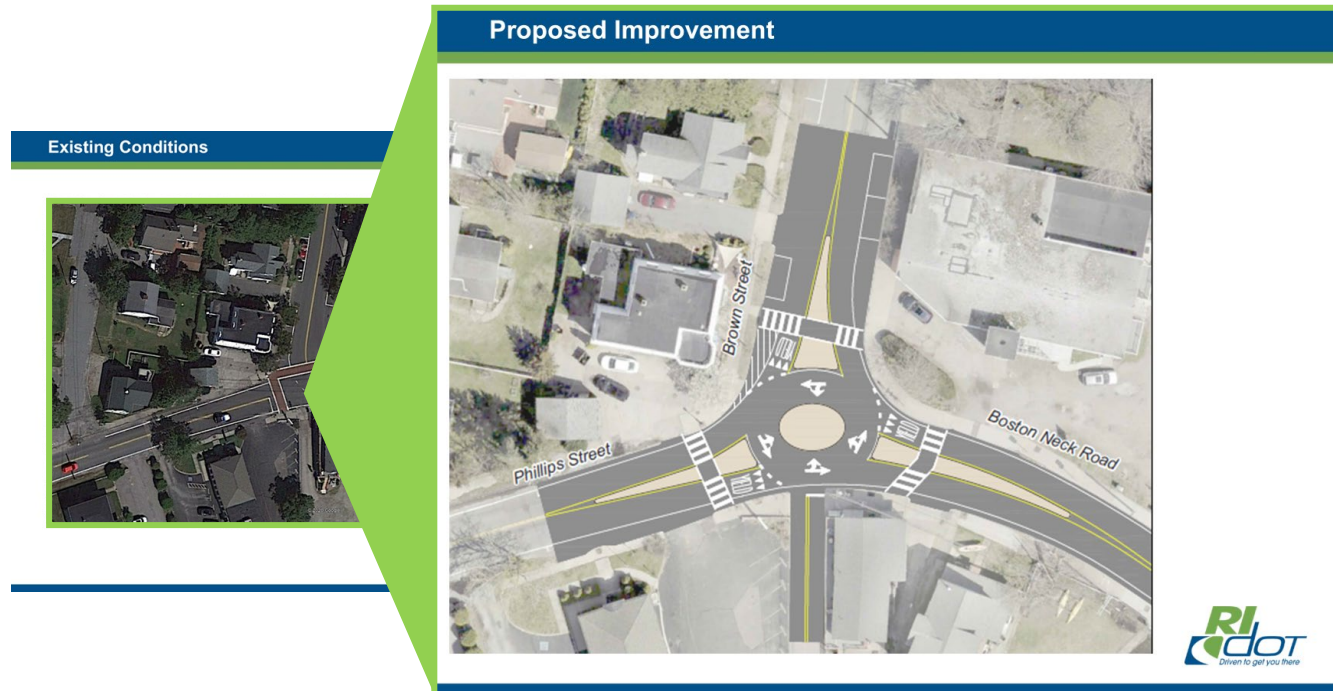
Numerous residents and business owners then commented that they were in favor of the mini-roundabout option and thanked RI DOT and the Town Council for their attention to this matter.

# Wickford Mini-Roundabout

## History

- January 25, 2021 (continued)

A bi-partisan Town Council unianimously voted to send a resolution endorsing the Mini-Roundabout as proposed by RI DOT.



# Wickford Mini-Roundabout

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## History

- Since January 25, 2021
  - RI DOT has put forth a significant amount of resources including \$209,000 in taxpayer dollars for the designing, engineering, consulting and schematic design for the construction bid planned for this spring.
    - Initial drawings call for a mini-roundabout within the existing paved area. No widening is expected to be required.
    - Large vehicles will be able to drive over the traversable center and splitter islands via a sloped granite 3" curb.
    - Splitter islands are proposed to be stamped and colored concrete.
    - The sidewalks will match existing proposed materials.
    - No additional lighting will be required.



# Wickford Mini-Roundabout

## History



**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

Department of Transportation  
Two Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02903

Office 401-222-2481  
Fax 401-222-2086  
www.dot.ri.gov

January 8, 2025

A. Ralph Mollis  
Town Manager  
Town of North Kingstown  
100 Fairway Drive  
North Kingstown, RI 02852

Re: Mini Roundabout at the Intersection of Phillips Street, Boston Neck Road, and Brown Street

Dear Mr. Mollis,

Recently, we have been made aware of a petition to stop the proposed construction of the mini roundabout at the intersection of Phillips Street, Boston Neck Road, and Brown Street in the Town of North Kingstown. Because the Town Council passed a resolution in January of 2021 to endorse the mini roundabout, we are asking the Town to reaffirm their support for the mini roundabout before we proceed to advertisement.

To summarize the history of the proposed mini roundabout:

In 2019, after receiving customer service complaints from the public, RIDOT requested the State Traffic Commission (STC) to study the traffic control at the intersection of Phillips Street, Boston Neck Road and Brown Street. The STC study developed 2 options, an all way stop and a traffic signal. At the request of the Town, RIDOT presented these two options to the Town Council on September 28, 2020. The Town Council was concerned that the STC study showed that both options would increase congestion in Wickford Village. They expressed a desire to limit congestion in the village while increasing pedestrian safety and asked RIDOT for other options.

Following that meeting, RIDOT reached out to the Town Manager to see if the Town would consider the installation of a mini roundabout. The Federal Highway Administration has determined that roundabouts are a proven safety countermeasure. In addition to safety, they are more efficient at processing traffic. The Town had discussions on this option with the council members, local businesses and the Town's Fire and Police Departments. Based on those discussions, the Town asked RIDOT to study if the roundabout is a solution appropriate for this intersection. RIDOT's consultant, VHB, Inc, conducted the study and the results were presented at the January 25, 2021 Town council meeting.

The study showed that the roundabout resulted in shorter traffic queues on the approaches compared to the all way stop and the traffic signal options. The use of islands on the approaches to the roundabout also allow

- January 8, 2025
- Letter received from RI DOT Director Alviti

A. Ralph Mollis

1/8/2024

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for shorter pedestrian crossings, thereby making the intersection safer for pedestrians. The testimony from both the Town Councilors and the public was universally positive in favor of the roundabout solution and was preferred over the all way stop and traffic signal options. The Town Council unanimously voted to approve a resolution endorsing the mini roundabout.

In accordance with this council vote, RIDOT contracted with a traffic engineering company to design the mini roundabout and subsequently programmed the project into the Pavement Improvements – West Main & Sprague project which is scheduled to advertise for bids in March of 2025. To date, RIDOT has spent \$209,000 on the design of the roundabout.

In light of the recent petition objecting to the roundabout, RIDOT requests that the Town confirm by a vote of its Council, their request to move forward with the roundabout design in order to maintain RIDOT's schedule for procurement. We require a response by January 30, 2025.

Sincerely,

Peter Alviti, P.E.  
Director  
Rhode Island Department of Transportation

Cc:

The Honorable Alana DiMario, Senator (District 36)  
The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr., Representative (District 32)  
R. Rocchio, S. Pristawa, S. Raymond, M. Hall, L. Pettengill, file

- All previous options proposed could potentially increase congestion in Wickford Village, and a mini-roundabout is highly recommended.
- US Federal Highway Administration has determined that roundabouts are a proven safety countermeasure and are efficient in processing traffic.
- A RI DOT consultant provided a study that showed the mini-roundabout solution would result in shortened traffic queues on approaches and would allow for shorter pedestrian crossings, ultimately making it safer for pedestrians.
- Director Alviti asks for confirmation from the Town to move forward with the current plan.

# Wickford Mini-Roundabout

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## From the Town Manager

- January 13, 2025 (today)
- This solution has been fully vetted, receiving outstanding public input and has resulted in a solution that is supported by traffic engineers, public safety personnel, residents, and business owners.
- State funds are very competitive.
  - While I can't speak for RI DOT, for the Town of North Kingstown to change it's opinion after going through an exhaustive near-five year process to get to where we are today and over \$200,000 in state funds being spent on a unianimously supported solution to address vehicular and pedestrian safety in our community can jeopardize our future requests for state dollars as we look for their help resolving the existing Route 4 conditions and the many other projects we need their collaboration to accomplish.
- After public comment, unless directed otherwise by Town Council, I will respond to Director Alviti's letter that this discussion has taken place and that no additional action is being taken to ask RI DOT to consider our plans for the improvement of the Brown/Phillips/Boston Neck Rd intersection.