

Lyme Select Board response to Mr. Camerato's questions (*in italics*):

1) *Where did the idea to install RRFB lights in the village come from?*

When this question was posed to Police Chief O'Keefe on May 12, 2020, he offered the following :

"I have spent my entire 19-year career trying to make this a safer, better crossing. Safety for everyone who uses that crosswalk is where my heart and soul have been. This was a big topic of discussion at my first Town Meeting in 2002.

When we first received what we have now, we knew it was not the answer to all our problems but, it was a start.

I have tirelessly worked with all of the School Officials and Select Boards on a way to make the entire School Zone a safer place. Over the years we have exhausted all avenues and have even been shot down at town meeting.

We have thought of everything and tried just about every option. But as you know, there are times when you have to weigh the "reward to risk" factor and every time we come with a thought, this is how we have looked at it.

The piece that many of the folks are forgetting is that the Police and Crossing Guards are NOT out there all day long. Wouldn't it be so much easier for anyone using the crossing to just push a button ? "

**Select Board responses in bold:**

**Police Chief O'Keefe and the Select Board have been concerned about the Route 10 crossing from the Public Library to the K-8 Lyme School for many years.**

**In February 2019 Select Board Chair Kevin Sahr contacted Mike O'Donnell through assistance with our District Representative, Ms. Polly Champion, who was aware of the need to improve the RT-10 crosswalk. As this crosswalk is on a State road, modifications must be permitted and approved by the NHDOT. Mr. O'Donnell is the Senior Traffic Operations Engineer for NHDOT Bureau of Traffic in Concord. On April 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, Chief O'Keefe and Kevin Sahr met onsite with Mike O'Donnell.**

**After the site inspection, it was NHDOT's recommendation that the best solution for improving the crosswalk safety is installing a Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) system. It has become the national standard for improving the "observance / yield" rate for motorist in our type of rural setting. The current cross walk achieves only a 20% yield rate, indicating that 80% of the vehicles passing thorough do not pay attention to the street markings ! Nationwide studies have proven that crosswalks with RRFB installations improve the yield rate to 80%. Please note that more vehicles pass through this crosswalk corridor on a daily basis than number of residents in Lyme. This is a heavily used corridor for vehicular traffic.**

2) *How much will the lights cost the town? \$42,000 or less.*

3) *Was there a public hearing or opportunity for the public to weigh in on the lights.*

**No public hearing was conducted for the RRFB. A presentation was made by Kevin Sahr to both the Lyme School Board and Lyme Library trustees in 2019 to raise their awareness that the RRFB solution was being recommended by the Select Board. The School Board noted their intent to make use of the Library enhance their “campus” approach with the two buildings.**

*If not, why?*

**As noted by Chief O’Keefe, the crosswalk has been a discussion item with no forward action for improvement for many years. Also note RSA 41:11 as it is the elected Select Boards’ responsibility to regulate Town highways, sidewalks and commons.**

4) *Did the town reach out to neighbors about the lights?*

**The Select Board has had numerous conversations during our normally scheduled Thursday Select Board public meetings. After Town Meeting 2020 the Board was asked to record for public listening our meetings and the recordings are on our Town Website. Recent discussions regarding the RRFB are on these recordings.**

*If not, why?*

5) *Is there a construction timeline for the lights to be operational?*

**The first step to achieving an approved NHDOT crosswalk with a RRFB is the design and permitting process which is underway. As NHDOT was planning to resurface RT-10 in the crosswalk area, the DOT took on the cost and reconstruction of the curb cut and landing to meet NHDOT and ADA compliance. The actual installation of the RRFB is currently conditional upon available funds to complete.**

*What is it?*

6) *Based on comments being made in the Listserv, it appears some residents don’t believe the lights fit in with the village. How do you respond to that criticism?*

**The significant improvement in yield rate, which equates to the safety of our Town citizens, outweighs the criticism, just as Hanover, Lebanon, East Thetford and Norwich have achieved.**

**Some criticism has been around the flashing and inducing a medical response. The RRFB operates outside of these know frequencies. While the RRFB does flash, it has been designed to operate outside of the 5-30 flashes per second so as to avoid inducing any medical reactions. Specifically, the RRFB flashes 75 flashing sequences per minute, with each sequence lasting 800 milliseconds with the lights illuminated 50 milliseconds at a time. A good resource for this information is provided in the link below:**

[https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interim\\_approval/ia21/index.htm](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/interim_approval/ia21/index.htm)