



FRONT PORCH FORUM: Crossing the Champlain Parkway on Foot

Thank you for sharing your observations and concerns related to the Champlain Parkway Project.

Pedestrian Crossings

The Champlain Parkway intersections were designed with exclusive pedestrian crossing phases, which stop vehicular traffic and provide pedestrians with a dedicated WALK interval to cross safely. These signal features were selected as part of a broader corridor design intended to balance the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and motorists while maintaining efficient traffic operations along the roadway.

While pedestrian scrambles/Barnes Dances, diagonal pedestrian crossings at an intersection, are used at some locations, they are typically most effective at intersections with very high pedestrian volumes and significant crossing activity in multiple directions. The Champlain Parkway project instead incorporated exclusive pedestrian phases, upgraded traffic signals, ADA-compliant facilities, new sidewalks, and shared-use paths to improve safety and connectivity throughout the corridor.

The DPW and the project team appreciate suggestions such as this and are actively reviewing community feedback. DPW staff and the project design team are monitoring intersection operations and evaluating whether adjustments to signal timing and phasing may be appropriate to better serve users while maintaining safe and efficient traffic operations.

Speeding

Regarding speeding along the Champlain Parkway and Home Avenue, we share your concern about safety. Speeding is an enforcement issue, and the Department of Public Works has requested additional police presence in the area now that the full length of the Parkway is open. As a result, police patrols along the Parkway have increased, and we will continue to relay resident concerns to the appropriate agencies.

In addition, the DPW has installed a radar speed feedback sign on northbound Champlain Parkway between Home Avenue and Flynn Avenue to help encourage compliance with the speed limit. Residents may also contact the Burlington Police Department directly to report ongoing traffic safety concerns and request additional enforcement in the area.

We understand that speed bumps have been suggested as a way to reduce vehicle speeds. Speed bumps are typically used on low-volume local streets and are generally not used on roadways such as the Champlain Parkway, which is designed to serve as a primary transportation corridor and accommodate buses, emergency vehicles, and truck traffic. The Parkway was designed as a two-lane, 25 MPH multimodal roadway that includes signalized intersections, dedicated pedestrian crossing phases, a shared-use path, sidewalks, and other features intended to support lower travel speeds while maintaining safe and efficient movement along the corridor.

We appreciate residents taking the time to report these issues and provide detailed observations.

Best,

The Champlain Parkway Project Team



FRONT PORCH FORUM COMMENTS:

When crossing the Champlain Parkway at Home Avenue or Flynn Avenue, one encounters a pedestrian countdown signal set to 15 seconds. This provides just enough time to cross on road at an unhurried pace. However, when attempting to cross two roads within the allotted time, quite a brisk pace is required. Adding an additional 7 seconds to the countdown clock would probably be just about right.

Occasionally, an adventurous soul will successfully navigate the diagonal before the clock runs down. Some cities have adopted the “pedestrian scramble” protocol, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pedestrian_scramble

How about excessive fines for anyone caught speeding and with loud cars/motorcycles.

This traffic light is not only ridiculous, it's stupid. It backs up traffic horribly in all directions. Just another example of poor planning without input from the commuter who travel that route daily.

Fully agree with David that unfortunately pedestrian and bike traffic is entirely an afterthought in this car-centric design. It's a massive downside for our community since so many of us (and our children) get around on foot.

We have written to the city and been to a DPW meeting (and specifically mentioned adding speed bumps) and got a generic message from DPW saying that speeding is an issue but they can't do anything about it. They seem to have added flashing speed signs recently, but that's clearly not doing enough.