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MIDDLETOWN

Are roundabouts ahead?

A workshop will focus on two roundabouts being considered for the Two Mile Corner area.

By Matt Sheley
Daily News staff

The concept of a major overhaul to the Two Mile Corner area in Middletown will be the subject of a public workshop Wednesday.

The workshop, hosted by the town's Planning Department and the state Department of

Transportation, will focus on whether roundabouts should be built less than an eighth of a mile apart at the intersections of West Main and East Main roads and Coddington Highway and West Main Road.

Another proposed roundabout where Aquidneck Avenue and Valley Road meet, near the Aquidneck Corporate Park and

the Aquidneck School, also will be discussed during the workshop, which will start at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

In addition to learning about the proposals — among the preliminary recommendations included in an island-wide transportation study — the workshop is a way for residents and business owners to be

heard on the subject, organizers said.

“The public is encouraged to attend the meeting for the opportunity to view traffic simulation models developed by the DOT specifically for Two Mile Corner, as well as to provide feedback to the Planning Board

ROUNDBOUTS A8

TO GO

What: Public workshop on proposals to revamp the Two Mile Corner area in Middletown, including installing roundabouts at the intersections of East Main and West Main roads and Coddington Highway and West Main Road.

When: Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Where: Town Hall, 350 East Main Road.

More info: A copy of the draft transportation study of Aquidneck Island is available at vhb.com/Aquidneck.

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Roundabouts

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and Town Council,” said Alison Ring, Middletown’s principal planner and geographic information system manager.

The busy Two Mile Corner and Coddington Highway-West Main Road area has been the topic of discussion and various proposals for reconfiguration at least since the late 1980s.

In July 2009, a comprehensive, \$500,000 study of transportation on Aquidneck Island was initiated by the state, with

the nonprofit Aquidneck Island Planning Commission serving as the lead agency and consultants Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc. hired to develop recommendations.

The proposal to install roundabouts on West Main Road first became public in early March during a presentation before the Town Council. At the time, a representative from VHB said roundabouts would help ease traffic and reduce congestion.

Roundabouts are smaller and handle motor vehicle traffic differently than a traditional rotary, such as those found in

Newport or neighboring Massachusetts, VHB officials said, but work more efficiently and safely than a typical four-way intersection with a traffic signal.

An early cost estimate from VHB for the West Main Road roundabouts is about \$3 million, officials said, although that does not include any property acquisitions that may be necessary.

Before any project could move forward, it would need approvals from the town and the state, officials have said.

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