



## Hamden neighborhood's intersection debate

By News Channel 8's Annie Rourke  
Posted September 9, 2008  
4:30 PM

Hamden (WTNH) -- People in one neighborhood say something needs to change at the intersection of Ridge Road and Haverford Street. But, some say the plan on the table is going in the wrong direction.

News Channel 8 received a copy of the minutes from a special meeting of the Hamden Traffic Authority. In it, town leaders admit, they haven't notified residents of their plan to change a dangerous intersection. And, this was back in July.

People living on Haverford Street say they only found out two weeks ago what the town's decided for them and they don't like it.

At the intersection of Ridge Road and Haverford Street, nine accidents have been reported in the last four years. This includes one a year ago with a car trying to pull into the intersection and being struck by an ambulance. The impact was enough to flip it. Fortunately, the medics inside were not badly injured. But it was the last straw for residents and the town. Both agree something should be done. But, that's all they agree upon.

The town's latest proposal is to turn Haverford into a one-way street.

"I lived on a one-way street before and there was a difference in the traffic coming up the street," Adeline Rosabianca, of Hamden, said.

The idea hasn't gone over well here. Neighbors have put together a petition. Rosabianca has five grandchildren she babysits for regularly. And, she says when it's not raining there are always kids out and about.

"I think the cars will go down faster and not worrying about the cars coming up the street and all that stuff," Rosabianca said. "I think it'll be more of a freeway."

Locals say a one-way is a drastic solution, when what causes accident here is the sight line.

So, News Channel 8 went to check it out for and found that there are quite a few trees, forcing drivers to inch their way out into the intersection in order to see.

Part of the town's plan is to also cut down as many as seven trees. But, residents say that won't slow down drivers on Ridge. They want stop signs, not a one-way.

"We both agree that it'll be bad for the kids," Rosabianca said. "You know, cause there's a lot of small children around here."

Hamden will be holding a meeting Wednesday at 7 PM in the Miller Library. Neighbors tell News Channel 8, they want to be more involved in the planning. And, they hope the town will take their view into consideration as well.