

# Norwalk's turn for widening old Route 7

Once again, we are asked to accept a "compromise" when it comes to Route 7, this involving the efforts to widen the old road.

We have seen this going on in stretches of Wilton and beyond; now the Department of Transportation is talking about that portion that lies in Norwalk, from the Grist Mill Road terminus of the new highway and the old highway at the Wilton town line.

The stretch of highway — the old one — from Grist Mill Road to Route 33 in Wilton, a distance of two miles, is expected to cost \$18 million. All of the widening work on the old highway is expected to cost \$140 million.

It seems to us that \$140 million would go a long way toward covering the same distance from Grist Mill Road to lower Route 33, over the right-of-way already owned by the state.

It certainly would be a safer alternative and it would eliminate the rocky cliff that now delineates the end of the new highway.

We learn that the stretch of the old road to be improved would include creation of several turning lanes in Norwalk. Such lanes have an inherent traffic safety issue, with a center lane alternately shared by traffic traveling in opposite directions.

We are realists enough to know the state is not going to advance completion of the new Route 7 after all these years.

We just wish some consideration would be given to the alternate link between Grist Mill Road and lower Route 33. It just makes sense.