



Post Construction Traffic Flow



As construction in downtown Westfield wraps up, there are several changes to traffic patterns from what many of us remember and it is important for everyone to know how to traverse our newly designed downtown. The following are a series of pictures detailing new traffic patterns with descriptions of what to expect in these areas. The most important thing to understand is that there are two consistent travel lanes heading north and south from the Turnpike entrance on the north side to the Holy Trinity/St. Rocco's area at the southern end. Additionally, a new section of roadway has a new name that you should become familiar with: the new northbound roadway, from the split in front of Holy Trinity church until after the road merges again where Blessed Sacrament used to be, is called Union Avenue.



The image above is on Union Ave. from in front of Holy Trinity church as you're heading north and approaching the intersection with Meadow St. As you can see, the far right lane is a "Right Turn Only" lane and there are two travel lanes that continue north onto the newest Great River Bridge.



Above is the intersection of Meadow St. and Union Ave. just south of the newest bridge. The far right lane is a "Right Turn Only" onto Meadow St. and for motorists travelling west on Meadow St. there is no longer a "Stop" sign there now enabling drivers to enter the bridge without stopping. However, drivers should use caution when merging onto the bridge.



A view from Meadow St. shows traffic (see truck in right lane) entering the north bound Great River Bridge without stopping but using caution enabling a more consistent flow of traffic and no stoppage at the intersection of Meadow St. and Union Ave.



On the northbound Great River Bridge, just north of Meadow St., there are three travel lanes on the bridge. It is important to note that once you get over the bridge the far left lane becomes a "Left Turn Only" lane onto Depot St. (which heads west towards the, temporarily closed, Drug Store Hill Bridge) and the two right lanes are for thru traffic continuing north as seen below.



As you're heading north and passing over the newest Great River Bridge, the far left lane becomes a "Left Turn Only" lane (as mentioned above) and the two right lanes are the northbound Union Ave. travel lanes under the train viaduct. The lane to the left of the median divider in the above picture is a new roadway that enables southbound cars only, no trucks, the ability to reverse their travel direction or to access Union St.



The above two images show the intersection of Union Ave., heading north, and the left turn onto Depot St.

Once through this intersection a "Right Turn Only" lane has been created enabling motorists to turn onto Union St. without slowing.

The left most north bound travel lane stays to the left of the dotted line. Drivers continuing north should not cross the dotted line as is being done by both the car and truck in the above picture.



Above you can see the "Right Turn Only" lane on Union Ave. for Union St. in front of Westfield Fuel Co. allowing the two left lanes to continue north. There is a light at this intersection for the two north bound travel lanes which will enable drivers heading west from Union St. the ability to turn north. Just beyond this intersection there is a dedicated "Left Turn Only" lane which has been carved out as seen below.



The two travel lanes seen on the right above are the continuation of northbound travel through this area. As the road bends to continue north the two travel lanes remain creating a consistent flow of two northbound travel lanes from the southern end of the bridges at Holy Trinity church all the way up to the beginning of Southampton Rd. where the lanes merge into one.



When heading south, drivers can no longer turn left onto Depot St. near the North Elm Butcher Block. If drivers wish to reverse direction and/or are looking to get to Union St., there is a cars only turning lane just after passing under the train viaduct. The view below shows the one way only status of Depot St. as it heads west towards the temporarily closed Drug Store Hill bridge. North Elm Butcher Block is the building on the near right corner and Elm Pizza is on the far right corner.



This image is the southbound approach to the Great River Bridge as you travel under the train viaduct. There are three travel lanes here and all three continue south over the bridge. As you can see, there is a turn for cars only to take a left before going over the bridge to either reverse direction or access Union St.



After you cross over the Great River Bridge heading south the three travel lanes become two as the far left lane becomes a "Left Turn Only" lane in front of the new clock. This turn enables driver access to Meadow St. and for southbound truck traffic to reverse direction and/or access both Meadow St. and Union St.

Aside from the roadways in and around the Great River Bridge project, there are only a couple more traffic pattern changes near Park Square.



It is important to know that Broad St. is now one lane in each direction with parking along each side from the Fire station to East Silver St. The above picture is from in front of the Fire station looking north. As you can see, there is a dedicated "Right Turn Only" lane heading into Stop & Shop and only one lane continuing north to the stop sign by the First Congregational Church. The image below shows the exit from Stop & Shop.



The last area of concern is the east side of Park Square by the Tavern Restaurant. Historically, there have been two travel lanes turning right onto Main St/ Rte 20 East. Now there is only one lane to turn right as seen in both the above and below photos.



It should be noted that with this construction project Westfield has become more bike and pedestrian friendly by creating bicycle lanes and adding bicycle markings on the roadways and having raised crosswalks. Remember that pedestrians in the crosswalks have the right of way and that the speed limit throughout the downtown corridor is 25 mph.

