

Attendees

Jonathan Dwyer
Kevin Kennedy
Chris Bibbo
John Vancor
Jane Herlacher
Margaret Olson
Ken Bassett
Ginger Reiner
Tim Higgins

1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Update

BPAC members reviewed current activity which builds upon the work of previous committees relative to:

- identification of key issues and impediments for users
- development of list of opportunities and priorities
- funding/identification of capital requests

It is anticipated that a joint meeting of RTC and BPAC will occur in September/October to review progress towards a comprehensive plan for actions that will improve safety for both bicyclists and pedestrians. Tim Higgins will circulate a link to the Bedford cycling comprehensive plan.

2. Extension of Trapelo Roadside Path to Old County Road

The extension of the Trapelo Roadside Path was discussed relative to both design issues as well as the feasibility of securing an easement for the path to cross Cambridge Water Board (CWB) land. Reference was made to previous contacts with Water Board representatives which identified issues of concern to the Water Board. RTC discussion focused on design issues and next steps:

- the option of a path immediately adjacent to the travel lane versus a path on CWB land was discussed. Given the volume and speed of eastbound/downslope Trapelo Road traffic the safety issues for path users is of significant concern. Location behind the stone wall on CWB land represents a considerably safer solution.
- A path behind the stone wall has the potential for an attractive alignment that works with existing topography and trees. However, gradients will need to be studied to determine ability to meet ADA standards. Precedent exists for departure from maximum gradients but further study and research will be needed.
- Completion of this path is seen as an important link in the Town's roadside path system, providing a safe route for what is existing pedestrian traffic as evidenced by the "cow path" that currently exists along the road.
- It was agreed that the next step is for the Selects to author a letter to the CWB representative outlining the Town's interests in obtaining an easement and requesting a meeting to discuss the possibilities.

3. Route 117 Paving/Lane Width

Chris Bibbo reviewed discussions relative to the prospect of repaving Route 117 from the RR tracks to the Weston Town Line. A specific issue relates to possibly narrowing the existing travel lane width of 11' to 10'. Such a narrowing was discussed with members of BPAC with the goal of improving shoulder conditions for cyclists. It was noted that existing shoulder conditions vary in width significantly due in part to roadside obstacles. The discussion focused on the following:

- Such a narrowing raises several issues, including the fact that lane widths on 117 in Concord and Weston are 12', thus raising an important transition issue (from 12' to 10'). Secondly, MDOT standards for arterials such as Route 117 call for minimum lane width of 11' and departure from that standard raises important liability issues for the Town. The conclusion of the discussion was RTC support for adherence to the existing lane width.
- Further effort to improve shoulder conditions may result from two actions: 1) site inspection to see if existing shoulder pavement exists beneath soil and debris buildup over time. This pavement could be reclaimed to enhance safety for cyclists. 2) travel lane alignments could possibly be adjusted to rebalance shoulder dimensions. Such an effort would require completing a survey of the roadway segment under consideration to see if such adjustments could be completed without interrupting the smooth flow of the travel lanes. Chris Bibbo and Tim Higgins will look into the prospect of a budget for completing such a survey and will make a decision on whether to proceed.

4. Sandy Pond/Lincoln Road Island Improvements

Preliminary plans for improving the Sandy Pond Island were discussed, including the following:

- Chris Bibbo has granite curbing to install around the perimeter.
- Coordination with the Water Department and Fire and Police is underway to relocate the existing hydrant to a safer location in the interior of the island. As part of this relocation a water hydrant is proposed for maintenance of landscape.
- New trees are proposed, location of which will be coordinated with the hydrant relocation as well as to respect site lines at the intersection.
- "Bread boards" and other signage would appear in some cases to violate guidelines for duration of stay as well as message content. Tim Higgins will check with the building inspector regarding enforcement and Margaret Olson will review policy on signage as defined in the zoning bylaws.

More detailed plans will be forthcoming after coordination with the Water Department and the completion of a detailed survey of the site area.

5. Route 2a Study Update

Tim Higgins reviewed the recent activity by MDOT relative to the Route 2a repaving project. Express interest by Lincoln, Lexington, and neighboring communities to have MDOT expand the scope of the

project has been successful, including the hiring of a consulting team with broad experience in bicyclist and pedestrian safety issues. While the early stages of consultant work have focused on

data collection, it is planned that public participation will be an integral part of the study process, allowing residents, town officials, National Park Service, and MDOT representatives to discuss options for a more balanced approach to what was seen primarily as pavement resurfacing project.

6. Minutes of the 25 April 2019 meeting were approved.