

Committee Members

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Guests

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BPAC Presentation on Advisory Shoulders Proposal

Bob Wolf summarized the status of BPAC's proposal for implementation of an Advisory Shoulders Pilot Project (ASP). Bob noted the results of the 2019 survey of residents that indicated broad support for improved safety for cyclists and pedestrians. The Advisory Shoulders proposal is a key element in the BPAC's initiative to provide safe access from all Lincoln neighborhoods to the Town's major institutions and community facilities. Attached is the project update provided by Bob (Illustrations A1 and A2).

Comments and questions on the BPAC proposal included:

- Safety is a concern related to the proposal. Research on ASP projects in Europe and recently in the US indicate potential for safety improvements for both motorists and pedestrian/cyclists. Research will continue and information shared with Lincoln's Public Safety department.
- Education of the public will be a key element in the proposal, both prior to implementation as well as posted information on the roadway once implemented.
- Clear demarcation of the ASP shoulder area will be essential. Examples of painted bike lanes in Boston were cited as one means for highlighting the shoulder area. It was noted that in some examples of ASP the visibility of the shoulder lane was weak.
- Sight distance issues exist at the reverse curve area near the Gropius House. Efforts are underway to find a possible solution.

- Residents from the Baker Bridge neighborhood expressed support for the proposal and its potential for increased safety for many pedestrians and cyclists that live in the area. BPAC is continuing its outreach to the neighborhood.
- Cost of the proposal is minimized in that signage and painted demarcation lines are the main elements.

BPAC will continue its research into the issues raised by the proposal, working with a task force including participants from MAPC, Lincoln Public Safety, DPW, and consultants. RTC requested that it be informed of BPAC meetings where it could be kept abreast of proposals and that a future RTC agenda would include an update from BPAC.

South Lincoln Path Connection Alternatives

Alternative proposals for the pathway connection from Lincoln Station to Codman Farm were reviewed with a focus on impacts on the Codman garden plots and the landscape island in front of Doherty's gas station. In addition a proposal for a crosswalk at the vehicular entry to Codman Farm was reviewed. Attached is a brief project overview (illustration B1) as well as illustrations of design proposals as follows:

- B2 and B3: illustration of the alignment and grading associated with providing an accessible pedestrian crossing at or near the Codman vehicular entry. While the existing roadside path alignment remains unchanged, the vertical alignment would require changes near the Public Safety building
- B4: Illustration of the potential need for removal of roadside trees in order to provide for adequate sight distances for motorists approaching the crosswalk from the west.
- B5 and B6: illustrations showing the pathway conflict with the Codman gardens (B5), and illustration B6 which modifies the alignment to eliminate impact on the gardens.
- B7: illustration showing a path directly adjacent to the edge of Lincoln Road at the Doherty's island. The path alignment exists within the public right of way, provides for continuation of existing perennial plantings, and removes the informal stone wall.

Discussion of the alternatives included:

- The proposed island design had merit but would require outreach and discussion with the Doherty's.
- The modification of the path alignment eliminates conflict with the garden plots and while not formally approved by the Codman Board appeared to be a workable solution.
- The proposed crosswalk at the Codman entry had significant value although further engineering is needed to finalize the proposal.

Summary points:

- Funding in hand to implement the path connection to Codman is likely sufficient for either the crosswalk or the path along Lincoln Road. Both projects have merit and may require a phased solution. It was noted that the path along the west side of Lincoln Road

represents an important safety improvement by eliminating two crossings of Lincoln Road for pedestrians/cyclists traveling from Lincoln Station to the Codman area.

- The funding has associated deadlines for completion of construction and Paula will initiate a request for an extension of the deadline.
- Outreach to Doherty's will be led by Jonathan and Ken.

Another RTC meeting will be scheduled to make final decisions on alternatives.