

Transportation Committee
Joint Meeting with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 7 PM

Via Zoom

<https://www.falmouthma.gov/bikeped>

In accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, relating to the 2020 novel Coronavirus outbreak emergency, this public meeting of the Falmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee shall be physically closed to the public to avoid group congregation.

Alternative public access to this meeting shall be provided in the following manner:

1. The meeting will be held via Zoom video conference. The public can view, hear, and participate in the meeting in real time by joining the Zoom video conference.

2. Real-time public comment will be permitted utilizing the Zoom virtual meeting software. This application will allow users to view the meeting and send a comment or question to the Chair via the Chat function. Submitted text comments may be read into the record at the appropriate points in the meeting as determined by the Chair, or the Chair may ask for oral public comment and discussion.

- a. Zoom Login instructions:

- i. Instructions and the meeting link for this specific meeting can be found at the following web address:

<https://www.falmouthmass.us/bikeped>

- ii. Please plan on 10-15 minutes of preparation time to log in though it may be less if you have previously used Zoom on the device you will use to access this meeting.

3. Additionally, public comments may be sent in advance of the meeting to Scott Lindell (scott.lindell@falmouthma.gov) at least 5 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting. Documents and audio or video files may also be submitted via email in advance of the meeting. Submitted email comments and documents will be made a part of the meeting record and may be read into the record, summarized or displayed during the meeting at the discretion of the chair.

Present: Chris McGuire, Scott Lindell, Pamela Rothstein,, Neel Aluru, Ed Gross (logged on at 7:17), Ben Harden

Members Absent: JoAnn Fishbein, Tim Shea, Ted Rowan

TMC members: Ed DeWitt, Alison Leschen, Chris McGuire, Rhona-Carlton-Foss (logged on at 7:43), Paul Dreyer (logged on at 7:18), Ralph Herbst

Also present: Doug Brown, Peter McConarty

Chairperson's opening remarks on conditions for remote meeting & participation

At 7:00, noting a quorum present, Scott called the meeting to order and read regulations for remote meetings. Ed DeWitt noted a quorum present from the TMC.

Minutes from previous meeting

Chris moved to approve the minutes of 1/5/22. Scott seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chris McGuire-aye

Ben Harden-aye

Scott Lindell-aye

Pamela Rothstein-aye

Neel Aluru-aye

Reports:

Friends of Falmouth Bikeways: No report.

Falmouth Bike Lab: No report.

Transportation Committee: No report.

Discussion w/ DPW Director, Peter McConarty

-Complete Streets Prioritization process and next steps

A discussion included the following:

- Scott asked Peter McConarty what items might be missing from the list of 50; an additional point was to consider what would be a priority for funding. Doug Brown said that he did not have the list. He asked if Thomas Landers Road was on the list since this was an area in need of safety improvements. Peter McConarty thought it was. Scott confirmed that it was #28 on the list.
- Scott asked about the crosswalk at Goodwill Park and Gifford St.; it was on the list as part of a multi-use path along Gifford. Could it be broken out? Peter McConarty said that Colleen Medeiros said that it would be broken out and the Cape Cod Commission may do the speed/traffic study to support it.
- Scott said that the Trotting Park connector was missing from the list. Peter McConarty said that Trotting Park Road was too narrow and DPW does not support inclusion. Scott reminded him that there is a sidewalk; a mid-block crossing would be required to make this a safe new corridor for pedestrians and bicyclists. This connector had been under discussion for 4 or 5 years; there are 200 letters of support on record. Four or five neighbors have opposed the idea at a public meeting then.
- Neel raised the issue of Sandwich Road. Buses must stop frequently because there is no sidewalk for children to walk on. Peter McConarty said that the goal is to have a multi-use path (#21 on CS priority list) along the length as repaving improvements are made from Rt. 28 to Route 151 or at least the ballfield. Repaving was done in 2021 but no sidewalk improvements were made. DPW has been looking at this for a few years.
- Ed DeWitt asked if there is an ongoing discussion between DPW and the School Department especially regarding Safe Routes to School (SRTS). Peter McConarty said no. Ed DeWitt asked if there were any ideas about how to move forward on that front. Peter McConarty said he could start a conversation with Patrick Murphy and then maybe the superintendent. Ed Dewitt said that he did not see the schools participate in the public session on CS prioritization despite a number of projects potentially involving SRTS. The Transportation Committee and Bike/Ped Committee have emphasized the village/school concept and SRTS framing could be helpful. Chris noted that the Bike/Ped committee has had a number of good interactions with the superintendent and was Peter McConarty familiar with the heat maps that the School has describing generally where kids live in

relation to their schools? The Planning Department could make those available for DPW and SRTS planning purposes.

- Scott observed that in 3 weeks there is a deadline for a funding opportunity, Shared Streets. Peter McConarty responded that he was considering Curley Blvd. in the application.

Alison asked if there were to be physical barriers, maybe removable, along Curley Blvd separating cars from bikes and pedestrians. This can make people feel safer and more inclined to use.

Peter McConarty said he could investigate what sort of barriers might be appropriate.

- Chris asked about combining funding sources.
Peter McConarty said that that could be done and ‘out of scope’ funding has been done. He did not recommend it.
- Ed Dewitt said that the TMC has been tracking grants received across the Cape and has found that Falmouth has not been as successful as others.
How can we maximize the use of grants?
- Peter McConarty said other divisions such as Solid Waste, have been chasing grants. He said that the Cape Cod Commission could be used but there is a lot of back and forth with that. There are a lot of groups looking for grants and only so much DPW can do.
- Doug Brown inquired about submitting KLB crosswalk and Gifford St. crosswalk for the Shared Street grant.
Peter McConarty said the process was the same for each project and would take about 12-24 months and there were not as many design issues with Curley Blvd.
- Alison noted that KLB crosswalk and shared use path is a project that would fit with the Embarkation Fund.
Ed Dewitt noted that there is \$1.2 million in the fund to mitigate safety issues related to increased traffic from the SSA that no one in the community has used it, nor was there a process for requests.
- Chris said that the committees could help advocate for additional Town staffing to write and administer grants, if the DPW needed.
Doug Brown said that the Select Board had recently discussed hiring a grant writer but there was not support for the idea.
Alison thought that this was be a missed opportunity and worth another discussion. There are funding opportunities that could enhance the quality of life for Falmouth citizens with little or no tax consequences.
Neel Aluru offered to do some research on grant writers/administrators that other Towns use.

- Ed Dewitt said that in an email Julian Suso raised concerns about whether the town can manage the Shared Streets grant.
Peter McConarty responded that he thinks its time to try applying for this program given the success of other towns, and what appears to be a simple process.
- Scott asked Peter McConarty about the process for selecting projects.
Peter McConarty said he'll look at priorities to see where the Town will get the best project. There may not be more public opportunities to weigh in but there will be more conversations.
- Doug Brown thought that the CS petitioner's article funds may best be used for design to get projects "shovel ready". Then the Town will be ready to apply for funds for construction.
Chris asked if funds like these could be available annually as a part of DPW budget.
Peter McConarty responded that he has not had a conversation with administration about the CS petition article and whether it would become a line item. This was now time for the capital not the operating budget.
- Alison summarized that Peter McConarty would reach out to Patrick Murphy; investigate the heat maps (available through Planning or Schools); investigate barriers for Curley Blvd.
- Scott added that Peter McConarty would engage with Coleen to let her know that the DPW was OK with the Teaticket connector being on the CS priority list.
- Doug Brown will: check on policy for use of the Embarkation Fund; present for further discussion the grant writing position.

-Re-paving SSBW issues - past and future remedies to root bumps:

The roots appear to be reemerging after less than 2 to 4 years after being repaved. Doug Brown reported that a poly barrier stopped bamboo in his experience.. Peter McConarty said that barriers had been installed behind Wood Lumber but roots jumped the barrier. Pamela suggested testing a small section.

-Next steps with Phase 2 Rt. 28:

Peter McConarty said that he has not heard back from the traffic consultants since the public meeting in October . He said that the Planning Board is doing its own design exercise. Paul Dyer clarified it was a PB subcommittee idea to add on-street parking, and send a letter of request to MADOT.

Communications with other Town Departments

-Goodwill Crossing – Bidding completed:

Peter McConarty said that the bid is open and hopes for work to be done by Lawrence Lynch in the spring.

-2nd Eco-counter installed; problem with tubes/tape:

Problem to be fixed in the spring.

-SSA WH Terminal & SSBW – traffic study to come?

The committees were in agreement that a traffic study should be done before the town signs off on the curb cut for SSA. The area has historically had heavy use with chaotic results. Use of the third slip will only increase the confusion and safety risks.

Chris moved that a letter be written on behalf of the joint committees to recommend to the Select Board that a traffic study be done in the area at the end of the bike way and Railroad and Luscom Avenues to address multi modal transportation including bicycles, pedestrians, cars, trucks.

Scott took a roll call vote.

Chris McGuire-aye, Ben Harden-aye, Scott Lindell-aye, Pamela Rothstein-aye, Ed Gross-aye, Neel Aluru-aye

Ed Dewitt took a roll call vote.

Ed Dewitt-aye, Alison Leschen-aye, Chris McGuire-aye, Rhona-Carlton-Foss-aye, Paul Dreyer-aye, Ralph Herbst-aye

Motion carried.

Outreach Event – Cross NH Trail public speaker event – March 9th

Pamela is working with IT to set up zoom access.

At 8:38 the committees adjourned by consensus.