

Scarborough Transportation Committee

Tuesday, June 27th @ 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order & Attendance

- a. Members in Attendance: Jennifer Ladd (Chair), Craig Robinson, Nick McGee (Council Liaison), Portia Hirschman, Roger Beeley (Planning Board Liaison), Steve Berg (Business Rep), and Tuck Barclay
- b. Staff in Attendance: Angela Blanchette (Town Engineer)

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes May 23, 2023

- a. Motion to approve made by Portia Hirschman, seconded by Steve Berg
- b. Unanimous approval (7-0)

3. Safe Streets 4 All Grant

- a. GPCOG is submitting a regional grant application for the Safe Streets 4 All Program. This is the next step in the development of the Vision Zero initiative to eliminate all fatalities and severe injury crashes on our roadways. While the Town of Scarborough does not have any equity zones, we do have some locations in to that fatalities have occurred and others where we have a higher number of severe crashes. GPCOG has mapped critical crash corridors and intersections in the region and has highlighted a few for consideration as part of a Demonstration project. These would be temporary installations of facilities that we would then be able to assess the impact prior to investing monies for a permanent fix. The following are locations that GPCOG has identified:

- Route 1 from Maple Avenue to Sawyer Street. This corridor has many high crash locations and they have identified the need to installation of traffic medians. Some of these medians will be installed as part of the Downs Traffic Movement Permit however. The Committee instead chose to look closer at a specific location that has discussed multiple times through the years with the Committee (and have received multiple public comments regarding), which is at the Downeast Motel crossing over the 5-lane Route 1 section to Little Dolphin Dr. The Transportation Committee would like to see what the traffic experts would be able to provide for ideas address the unsafe location for pedestrians. Possible ideas would be an center refuge within Rt 1 with pedestrian signal and advanced warning signage, or extending sidewalks on both sides of Rt 1 to direct people to a safer crossing location.
- Broadturn Rd @ Burnham Road: This is ranked high on MDOT's locations for safe projects. They will be implementing a safety project at this intersection, therefore there is no need to add this location for a demonstration project.

- b. Other locations discussed by the Committee as potential for this grant opportunity:

- Gorham Rd @ Saco Street: A new left turn lane will be added on Saco Street as part of the North Scarborough Road Improvement Project this year. This is

anticipated to eliminate some crashes at this intersection. We will need to revisit this location in the future to see what progress is made.

- **Route 1 at Sawyer Road:** This has been identified as a Critical Safety Intersection by GPCOG's Vision Zero analysis. This High Crash Location is near vulnerable demographic with the Veteran's Home and Bessey Commons Senior Housing in close proximity, it also provides the link to Memorial Park, as key destination in Town, while also functioning as the main exit/entrance to the Public Safety Building onto Route 1. With many factors that may be contributing to the safety concerns at this location, it is a prime candidate for a demonstration project through this grant.

- c. The following locations will be sent back to PACTS for consideration in the Safe Routes 4 All Grant application: Route 1 at Little Dolphin and Route 1 at Sawyer Rd.

4. Town Survey Transportation-related Questions

The group reviewed the traffic and transportation-related questions asked in the 2021 Community Survey. The questions asked residents to rate their satisfaction with the current availability and condition of the Town's transportation infrastructure. While as a group we understand that there is value in repeating the same questions from the 2021 survey in this year's survey, it is also an opportunity to fine tune questions in order to capture additional information to help inform and guide planning processes such as a the Townwide Transportation Study.

The following is a list of suggestions that the Transportation Committee would appreciate being considered by Councilors as they finalize the specific wording associated with questions in this year's survey:

- **Question #7 Infrastructure:** Instead of asking how satisfied they are with the "Condition" of the major Town streets, streets in your neighborhood, sidewalks, and street signs/ traffic signals, the committee suggests the word "Quality."
- **Questions #7 Infrastructure:** We would suggest adding the following questions:
 - Quality of bike ways
 - Quantity of bike ways
 - Quality of sidewalks
 - Quantity of sidewalks
- **Questions #9 Transportation and Mobility:** We would suggest adding the following question:
 - Availability of bike ways
- **Demographics:** We would suggest the following questions be included:
 - What area/neighborhood do you live? (assuming there will be a drop down list or similar to choose from)
 - Where are you commuting to for work?
 - How many days a week do you travel to work?

The Chair, Jen Ladd will create a memo from the Transportation Committee to our Council Liaison, Nick McGee, outlining these suggestions for consideration by the Communication Committee.

5. Bike Byways Subcommittee Update

The subcommittee has begun the mapping exercise by starting with trails in Town. They are categorizing them as existing off-road, existing on-road, identifying low volume, low speed, neighborhood types of trails. They are looking at proposed connections of these trails or

formalized some trail connections that have been not been to date. They are looking at connection Points of Interest (i.e. restroom locations, parks, bike rack facilities, school campuses, etc.).

The subcommittee asked for assistance from the Planning Dept to look at older subdivisions that have dedicated trails as part of their Planning Board approvals. The group will continue to update the Transportation Committee on their progress.

6. Public Comment – None. Members of the committee however discussed the potential Consolidated School project at the Downs Development. Transportation-related burdens on our network and infrastructure need to be considered early in the process, such as with site selection or when considering connectivity and demand for updated infrastructure to support this endeavor. Transportation Committee members voiced the desire to be a resource to the School Building Committee as this project moves forward, and encouraged Councilor McGee to have someone at the table in discussions as soon as possible that can speak to traffic and transportation needs.

7. Meeting adjourned @ 9:00 PM