

# **Scarborough Transportation Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 9, 2024**

1. Call to Order & Attendance
  - a. Members Present: Jen Ladd (Chair), Roger Beeley (Planning Board Liaison), Tuck Barclay, Marvin Gates (Long Range Planning Rep), Jon Anderson (Council Liaison), Craig Robinson, Portia Hirschman, Steve Berg (Business Representative)
  - b. Staff Present: Angela Blanchette (Town Engineer) and Mark Holmquist (Chief of Police)
  
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes October 24, 2023
  - a. Motion for approval: Roger Beeley, seconded by Craig Robinson
  - b. 4 yeas, 2 abstain
  
3. Greater Portland Council of Government (GPCOG) Vision Zero Initiative Presentation
  - a. Chris Chop, GPCOG Transportation Director provided a presentation to the group
  - b. Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and sever injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. First implemented in Sweden in 1990s, Vision Zero has provided successful across Europe and now it is gaining momentum in major American cities.
  - c. The Transportation Committee identified the Route 1 section at Downeast Lane/Little Dolphin Drive as the highest concern for pedestrian safety, as we have had multiple fatalities at this location over the years. We submitted for a demonstration project to GPCOG under the USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program to help identify solutions for this safety concern. We are still waiting for results of that grant process.
  - d. Focus should be on design of our roadways with a new approach to think of users not always following the rules or assuming we have distracted drivers. We need to consider that as we place people in vulnerable situations. Roadway design is an upstream solution. Roadway design can reconnect communities. There is a lot of Federal transportation funding for design and construction on our arterials and collector roads to help address these issues.
  - e. Chris provided some examples of safety projects in Scarborough and other Towns in the region and across the country.

- f. Jen Ladd identified that data is key to this process and as we have more capability for data collection with our new adaptive traffic signals coming online, we should be utilizing this information to make better decisions for prioritizing funding of future projects by considering both High Crash Locations and risk network based on trending data.

#### 4. Review of Scarborough High Crash Locations

- a. Chief Holmquist provided a review of the high crash locations in town, and highlighted key corridors and intersections in Town that need additional focus for future analysis and study to determine safety measures. The information presented included crash data from 2021 to 2023. These areas will be highlighted in the Townwide Transportation Study draft that the committee will be reviewing over the next few months.
- b. Ranking high on the list were the intersections of :
  - Cummings/Payne: 41 crashes, 39% PI
  - Gorham / Payne: 39 crashes, 15% PI
  - Oak Hill: 36 crashes, 36% PI
  - Gorham / Saco: 34 crashes, 38% PI
  - Hillcrest/Green Acres: 33 crashes, ?PI
  - Holmes/Payne: 29 crashes, 21% PI
  - Haigis/Lincoln: 29 crashes, 41% PI
  - Dunstan Corner: 25 crashes, 24% PI
  - Saco/County: 20 crashes, 45% PI
  - Rt 1/Payne: 19 crashes
  - Payne/Haigis: 18 crashes
  - Spring/Gallery Blvd: 15 crashes
- c. Ranking high on the list of corridors are:
  - Rt 1 – Dunstan Ave to Pine Point Rd: 28 crashes
  - Gorham Rd near Oak Hill: 16 crashes
  - Spring St – Mussey Rd to Gallery Blvd: 15 crashes
- d. Some work is currently happening around town by developers to mitigate some of the issues with our HCLs. A map of the transportation-related projects being performed by private developers, Maine DOT, and the Town can be found on the Town webpage under Engineering Dept. The Committee has asked that a newsletter and Leader article be written to identify some of these projects. While many of the private projects are part of a State permit process that has little ability for local input to direct the results, these should still be highlighted for the public.

#### 5. Staff Updates

- a. Townwide Community Survey results have been provided and can be found on the Town home page under “What’s Happening.” We will be discussing in detail at our next meeting, as Transportation-related topics ranked high in the survey.
- b. Close the Gap continues to make progress. We are down to finalizing the last easement necessary to be able to put the project out to bid. Application to Army Corps and DEP is the next step. A Pre-application meeting is scheduled with DEP for this project. The plans and specifications are approximately 95% complete and we anticipate the bid process to begin in the spring of 2024.

- c. Staff has been working on a Traffic Calming Request Policy. The Committee will see a draft of the Policy at their next meeting to review and discuss.

6. Public Comment

- a. Jerry Turner from 4 Pilgrim Dr (Heritage Acres). He is interested in the Traffic Calming Policy and is seeing higher speeds and higher volumes of cars utilizing Payne Road now that Costco is open. Increased truck traffic. Has there been any thought to putting in a 4-way stop of Two Rod Rd, due to increased development to the west? Also questioning if a 4-way stop is needed to Payne and Scottow Hill Rd.
- b. Comments from Averyl Hill, Maple Avenue resident will be sent to the committee members, as her audio was not working during the meeting.

~ Meeting Adjourned ~