

Scarborough Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 27, 2024

1. **Call to Order & Attendance**

- a. Members Present: Jen Ladd (Chair), Tuck Barclay, 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 January 9, 2024**

- a. Motion for approval: Portia Hirschman, seconded by Steve Berg
- b. Passes 4-0

3. **Traffic Calming Policy**

- a. Angela Blanchette provided an overview presentation of the draft Traffic Calming Request Policy, which includes a process by which residents can make a formal request for staff to review the specific concerns of a neighborhood related to potential traffic calming measures.
- b. The policy lays out criteria that must be met in order for passive, standard, or physical alterations to be made in a local Town right-of-way.
- c. The application form can be found on the Town Website through the Police Dept page. There will also be a link to this page from the Public Works and Engineering Department pages.

4. **Townwide Community Survey Results**

- a. Angela provided an overview of the survey results that relate directly to Transportation and Traffic.
- b. The Town ranked high in the categories of: Quality of Services, Appearance of the Town, Quality of Life, and Overall Perception.
- c. Top 3 Categories that should receive the most emphasis over the next 2 years:
 - Flow of traffic and ease of getting around
 - Maintenance of streets, sidewalk, and infrastructure
 - Public Education

- d. Top 3 infrastructure categories that should receive the most emphasis over the next 2 years:
- Quantity of Sidewalks
 - Adequacy of street lighting
 - Quantity of bike ways
- e. In terms of importance weighted with satisfaction the top categories that should be prioritized by the Town are:
- Flow of traffic and ease of getting around (#1 ranking)
 - Maintenance of Town streets, sidewalks, and infrastructure (#2 ranking)
 - Public Transportation (#4 ranking)
- f. Top 3 most significant issues you think Scarborough will face over the next 5 years:
- Pace of Growth (77.3%)
 - Affordability of Town Services (property taxes) (69.1%)
 - Affordable Housing (41.0%)
 - Public Education (32.7%)
 - Public Safety (17.9%)
 - Environmental Protection (16.0%)
 - Climate Change Adaptation (15.5%)
 - Transportation (11.7%)
- g. The committee discussed the fact that traffic safety was not considered in the survey.
- h. The committee discussed the fact that when ranking the “Most Significant Issues Scarborough faces in the next 5 years” the results showed that only 11.7% ranked Transportation high. Rate of growth concerns were the highest ranked. However, when pace of growth is not available as a selection “Flow of traffic and ease of getting around” ranked high for prioritization. The Committee felt that in this instance mobility concerns were a substitute for growth, as traffic volumes come with more growth and is not a good representation of the results to say that mobility in our corridors should be prioritized over bike and pedestrian safety.
- i. Take aways from the discussion to be included in the Transportation Study are the need for connectivity of bike and pedestrian accommodations, maintenance of our sidewalks and bike ways, and traffic safety should be a priority.
- j. Jon Anderson requested that we review Council’s 2024 Goals as they relate to Transportation:
- Identify priorities with the Townwide Transportation Study once completed and develop plan to implement the most significant and impactful changes to address traffic congestion and transportation improvements around town.
 - Identify land use implications and impacts of the Gorham Connector.
 - Continue support of the Gorham Connector as a way to reduce traffic congestion in Western & Northern Scarborough
 - Raise awareness around multi-year investment plan to improve town infrastructure, streets, sidewalk, and transportation initiatives.

5. Staff Updates

- a. 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 in May of this year.
- b. Gorham Connector Council Workshop took place on February 21, 2024. MTA alignment has been narrowed. The alignment will go under Running Hill Road and over County Road. It will connect Exit 45 to Gorham bypass roundabout. MTA has secured 35% of the land rights for the proposed alignment. Discussions continue with landowners. A website through MTA is available to allow residents to email comments and questions in directly. Residents can also sign-up for automatic updates through the site. The First Public meeting for the project will be held at Gorham Town Hall on 3/25/24. They will host additional public meetings in Scarborough (May 2024) and Westbrook (June 2024).
- c. Traffic Movement Permit discussions continue for many developments in town. The most recent have been related to the proposed Aroma Joe's at the intersection of Payne Rd and Bridges Dr. Additional right turn lane is proposed on Payne Rd, left-turn lane into the site on Bridges Dr, and further study of impacts at the intersection of Holmes Rd and Bridges Dr.

6. Public Comment

- a. Michael Daly, provided written public comment regarding the Traffic Calming Request Policy. The Committee discussed adding language regarding coordinating with the State on state-aid roads that are not covered under this local policy.
- b. Rory Benjamin, 68 Maple Avenue, provided written public comment regarding the Traffic Calming Request Policy. Staff identified that language would be added regarding the Town initiating the neighborhood survey to gather feedback on proposed recommendations.
- c. Averyl Hill, 14 Maple Avenue provided comments regarding the Traffic Calming Policy.
- d. Polly Sewell, 82 Payne Road, asked questions related to the Payne Road corridor and traffic calming. Angela explained that staff is currently looking at safety issues at the intersection of Payne Road and Scottow Hill Road.

7. Adjourned at 7:50PM

~ Meeting Adjourned ~