

Scarborough Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 14, 2025

1. Call to Order & Attendance

- a. Present at the meeting: Jennifer Ladd (Chair), Portia Hirschman (remote), Councilor Jon Anderson, Roger Beeley (remote) (Planning Board), Craig Robinson, Tuck Barclay, Peter Freilinger (remote) (LRPC), and Steve Berg (Business Community Representative)
- b. Staff: Angela Blanchette, P.E. (Town Engineer)

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes October 22, 2025

- a. Tabled

3. Review Online Public Feedback associated with Draft Townwide Transportation

- a. Angela reviewed the feedback received through the online portal
- b. We are receiving a lot of good comments and feedback from the public. The number of comments is higher than we would see in a typical public meeting forum.
- c. Concern was raised by a resident of Higgins Beach that the timing for comments does not align well with those that are only here seasonally.
- d. The Committee discussed closing the public feedback portal on February 1, 2025. Comments were made that staff will have to finalize the document without help from the consultants as we are now over budget for the project. Additional effort will take more time. The Committee voiced satisfaction that the Town was well represented in the comments received and that comments are now starting to be focused on specific individual concerns rather than the intent of the document for a high level prospective of traffic and transportation concerns. The Committee was comfortable moving the document forward but asked staff to provide information at the next committee of edits that would be made based on the feedback received.
- e. The group discussed educating the public on items that are happening related to transportation studies and projects. Councilor Anderson suggested that this group have a standing article in the monthly newsletter, similar to the Conservation Commission. This would give the volunteer members prospective on the work that is happening and convey that out to the public. In addition, members suggesting a Leader article or Public Service Announcement of all the Transportation related elements that are currently in progress. This is found within the draft study, but may be helpful to have some committee members provide a summary for the public.
- f. Staff suggested a Fact Sheet of the frequently asked questions that can be provided to the public based on the feedback we have received from the public.
- g. It should also be stated to the public that many of the transportation related items are either controlled or needs coordination with the State through Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT), such as speed limits, traffic control devices, etc. There are standards to protect the motoring-public as well as cyclists and pedestrians. That is not to

say that we can not effectively work with MDOT to make change in the corridors when we work collaboratively with the State.

- h. Councilor Anderson also mentioned the ability to work with our State Delegation and potential legislation related to transportation. This would also include the need for advocacy for public transportation.
- i. There was discussion related to supporting the effort to bring trolleys or shuttles to Scarborough to move people to our beaches, shopping, library, etc. without having to get in a single-occupied vehicle. This also speaks to the need to utilize the large parking areas we have in town without adding parking near our natural resources that need to be protected.

4. Council Goals

- a. Councilor Anderson reviewed a list of conceptual Council Goals that were submitted by Councilors in preparation for their goal setting workshop scheduled for January 25, 2025.
- b. Below is the list related to Transportation needs in Town:
 - Clean up / enforce ordinances along main roads- Payne road and other Main access road to Scarborough
 - Pursue a Grant in partnership with the Downs for Payne Road traffic improvements (Council)
 - Fund Sidewalks in the budget above historical rate (Council)
 - Identify alternative traffic solutions in North Scarborough that may not require the Gorham Connector in partnership with GPCOG, impacted municipalities and other regional agencies (Transportation)
 - Advance findings of Town-wide Transportation Study and deliver a plan of prioritized investments for the next 5 years within prioritized corridors for 2027 CIP consideration (Transportation)
 - Complete Streets Guidance document in partnership with GPCOG (Transportation)
 - Explore public transit options in partnership with the Public Transit providers to explore piloting a transit option in the summer of 2025 to Pine Point and Higgins Beach during the summer time to reduce beach traffic and alleviate issues with parking.
 - Support creation of a transportation strategy and prioritized project plan that is based on the transportation study and addresses, motor vehicle traffic and safety, encourages alternate modes of transportation and increases connectivity of bikeways and walkways. Outcome – A transportation strategy and plan
 - Continue to oppose the Gorham Connector and work with MTA, GPCOG and MDOT to identify alternative approaches to address East West Traffic.
- c. The committee also discussed requesting support of Council for Vision Zero. As there is potential for this group to request Council action on a Vision Zero resolution.

5. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

6. Adjourned at 8:04 PM

Motion made by Portia Hirschman to adjourn. Seconded by Steve Berg. Passes unanimously.