

Transportation Committee

Overview

The Transportation Committee looks at all forms of transportation within the Town of West Boylston whether it be by motor vehicle, bicycle or on foot. The safety of our residents and our transient population is our primary focus. We also look at traffic movement through Town and some of the challenges and difficulties this traffic encounters. Currently, with the help of the Central Massachusetts Planning Commission (CMRCP) we are applying for grants under the Complete Streets Program and developing plans to improve our sidewalks and streets to better accommodate the traveling public. Once the funds become available we will work to prioritize the most needed areas focusing on sidewalks first, then streets and bike lanes.

Key Findings

- Although we have recently upgraded many of our sidewalks, there are still many that are deteriorating and in need repair.
- There are sections of sidewalks along Rt. 12 that are not connected. Sections of sidewalk were either removed by commercial establishments or never existed leaving pedestrians no choice but to walk on the grass, behind the guardrail or in the street to get to the next section.
- Some of the commercial driveways areas are very large making a dangerous situation for pedestrians trying to cross in front of their businesses.
- There is concern about the safety of using crosswalks spanning Rte. 12.
- Some streets are narrow making bike lanes difficult to develop.
- There is public feedback concerning additional crosswalks in high pedestrian areas.
- Truck traffic sometimes has difficulty due to very sharp intersection turns and discontinued or abandoned streets.

Key Challenges

- Funding is limited as always and some of the key sidewalks are on State property.
- Complete Streets funding is very competitive. We need to research how the projects are rated and ultimately chosen for funding.
- New sidewalks, in most cases, need to be designed and retaining walls will need to be incorporated in some areas.
- Determining where bike lanes are needed and are feasible.
- Working with the State to upgrade sidewalks and to restripe roadways to incorporate bike lanes.
- Finding ways to redirect truck traffic and/or ways to make better access.

Transportation Committee Goals

- This Committee will look to provide a safe and continuous walkway for pedestrians to navigate through the center of West Boylston connecting the Town Hall, Library, Fire Dept./DPW, Churches Goodale Park and the Schools.
- We will also try to determine how to move forward with our plan to connect missing sidewalk sections along Rte. 12 between the Rte. 140 intersection and the Walmart Plaza involving State owned property further expanding pedestrian access.
- Our plan is to work with the State and other agencies such as the CMRCP to secure funding for our projects. Including funding for our truck traffic issues.
- We will Investigate and hope to ultimately install crosswalks with or without warning light devices, as needed, in high pedestrian, high traffic areas.
- There is a significant amount of bicycle traffic in West Boylston. We will investigate and ultimately attempt to develop bike lanes and bike paths in feasible areas.

Transportation Plan

The following actions will help us meet our Transportation Committee Goals.

Item	What	Why	Goal(s)	Who	When
1	Reexamine our priorities attempting to focus on Town owned roadways only for our next Complete Streets application submission.	The plan has potential but we may not be able to secure funding for State road projects.	1	Trans. Committee DPW Director Town Administrator	Ongoing
2	Contact State officials to start the process of connecting missing sidewalk sections along Rte. 12 and to see if project is eligible for Complete Streets funding.	This area is vital to connecting the center of WB to the Walmart Plaza.	2	Trans. Committee DPW Town Administrator	Ongoing
3	Continue to submit applications to the Complete Streets program for project funding. Discuss the application process with State program administrators to optimize our plan. Look for other funding sources.	The Town needs the funding to move ahead with the majority of these projects.	3	Trans Committee DPW Director Town Administrator	Ongoing
4	Investigate the process for installing additional crosswalks on both State and Town roadways. Look at the possibility of adding warning light devises at the most critical sites.	We have had several requests for crosswalks in areas the public feels they are necessary.	4	Trans Committee DPW Director Town Administrator	Ongoing
5	Look into the specifications and feasibility of installing bike lanes and bike paths in various areas of Town.	The Committee feels there is significant bicycle traffic in Town and wants to make the roadways safer for the riders.	5	Trans Committee DPW Director Town Administrator	Ongoing