

**Town of Needham
Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee
Minutes for Thursday, October 17, 2024**

HYBRID

Charles River Room, Public Services Administration Building
500 Dedham Ave, Needham MA 02492

or

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89968969859>

+1 305 224 1968 US; +1 309 205 3325 US; +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 646 931 3860 US

ADOPTED DECEMBER 9, 2024

- 7:00 p.m. Call to Order:
A meeting of the Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee was convened by Tim Bulger, Chair. Those present in-person were Guus Driessen, Tyler Gabrielski, James Goldstein, and Moe Handel. Duncan Allen, Shane Mark, and Paul Molta joined via Zoom.
- 7:03 p.m. Approve Minutes from September 9, 2024:

Motion by Mr. Handel to approve the meeting minutes from September 9, 2024.
Second: Mr. Goldstein. Approved 5-0-1, with Mr. Frail abstaining.
- 7:04 p.m. Introduce New Members:

Mr. Bulger introduced the new members of the MPCC, Stephen Frail and Guus Driessen. Mr. Frail is an appointee from the Climate Action Plan Committee. Mr. Driessen is an appointee from the Transportation Safety Committee.
- 7:05 p.m. 2024 Construction Season Wrap Up and Debrief:

Mr. Gabrielski provided an update on the 2024 construction season. The pavement lines are being completed on Webster Street, including the lines on the raised crosswalks. There were several projects that have been delayed to 2025 as a result of capacity or budget reasons. Mr. Gabrielski also noted several new strategies being used for the first time, including raised crosswalks as a traffic calming strategy and expanding the use of curb extensions and bump outs in order to reduce speeds as well. In terms of maintenance, cape seal treatment has been used on Country Way, which was a new strategy for maintenance in order to create a double seal. In terms of utilizing Chapter 90 funding, some of these funds were applied to the project on Dedham Avenue. MPCC members discussed the extent of work completed and the extensive logistics involved in completing this work. Mr. Allen also raised the signal phasing at the intersection of Great Plain Avenue and Webster Street. Mr. Frail raised a concern about the crosswalk at May Street and Webster Street and the disregard for pedestrians at the crosswalk by drivers when they are

paying more attention to drivers on Webster Street. Mr. Frail added that he would bring this to the Transportation Safety Committee. Speeds on Dedham Avenue and the Safety Zone on Webster Street were also discussed. Mr. Molta also raised the questions about speed cameras and their role in speed limit enforcement.

7:34 p.m. Bike Plan and Map:

Mr. Bulger discussed the MPCC's leadership in determining where it would be appropriate to add bike infrastructure in Town. An important part of this is planning a bike plan alongside any construction planning that is occurring. Priorities include Harris Avenue, developing a plan for established bike routes in Town, and discussing other key roads that can be identified on a bike map. MPCC members also discussed what the funding source may be for this project after establishing the bike plan. Mr. Goldstein also raised the extent of idling cars at drop-off and pick-up on Harris Avenue and how this can be addressed.

In determining how to prioritize and develop the bike plan and map, Mr. Bulger has identified 16 streets and 10 miles of bike lanes that can be developed. The Committee will view the plan electronically and share feedback with Mr. Bulger. Mr. Mark recommended that this be discussed at each MPCC meeting for the foreseeable future and raised the issue of parking on certain streets that will be affected by this plan.

8:13 p.m. Updates re: Transportation Master Plan Draft Scope:

Mr. Gabrielski provided an update from Travis Pollack on the Transportation Master Plan Draft Scope. He added he has been in discussion with a GIS Coordinator about the proposed budget and scope. The GIS Coordinator mentioned that the GIS budget should be built into the cost of the project and the estimated amount is too high. Discussion ensued about what the funding would be for this item. Committee members agreed that the updates to the Draft Scope seemed appropriate

8:28 p.m. Updates on Downtown Redesign, Bottleneck Grant, and Highland Ave TIP:

Mr. Gabrielski added that there was a table at the Harvest Fair to begin public outreach about the project. He mentioned that data collection continues through survey work and traffic analyses. The Bottleneck Grant is currently addressing the signal improvements in the center. These will be important discussion points especially as the Downtown Redesign Committee begins its work.

8:40 p.m. Fall Semi-Annual Joint Meeting of the Transportation Committees:

MPCC members discussed feedback on the prior Joint Meeting and the goal of this meeting. This meeting will aim to align construction plans between the Rail Trail Committee, the Transportation Safety Committee, and the MPCC. Mr. Bulger said

he envisions a conversation between the three committees about the upcoming year. Topics could include the bike plan, the design guide, and the goals of future meetings. Mr. Bulger will reach out to the chairs of the other two committees to discuss their goals for this Joint Meeting. Committee members discussed potential dates and locations for this meeting.

8:53 p.m. Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Handel that the Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee vote to adjourn the meeting of Thursday, October 17, 2024.

Second: Mr. Goldstein. Unanimously approved 6-0.

The next Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 4, 2024 at 7 p.m.