

**Town of Needham
Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee
Minutes for Monday, February 10, 2025**

HYBRID

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

or

<https://needham-k12-ma-us.zoom.us/j/81086838535>

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Webinar ID: 810 8683 8535

ADOPTED APRIL 14, 2025

- 6:00 PM Call to Order:
A meeting of the Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee was convened by Tim Bulger, Chair. Those present in-person were Duncan Allen, Guus Driessen, Tyler Gabrielski, Justin McCullen, Wooseong Kwon and Carys Lustig. Stephen Frail, Paul Molta, James Goldstein and Shane Mark joined via Zoom. Paul Molta joined at 6:05.
- 6:02 PM Approve Minutes from January 10th, 2025:

Motion by Mr. McCullen to approve the meeting minutes from January 10th, 2025.
Second: Mr. Goldstein. Unanimously approved 6-0.
- 6:03 PM Joint Meeting of the Transportation Committees:

Discussion regarding the topics and scheduling of the Spring Joint Meeting of the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Gabrielski led with the discussion of a March date and asked the group about their thoughts on format and the information that should be presented. Mr. Gabrielski mentioned previous formats of being heavily one-sided with DPW construction and that he would like to avoid similar approaches moving forward and Mr. Driessen agreed. Mr. McCullen asked why the meeting needs to be in March and whether it could be after Town Meeting and Town elections. Ms. Lustig mentioned that the vision is to have the Joint meeting before Town Meeting and vote because of recurring items like Chapter 90 Allocation, Public Works Infrastructure Article and Rail Trail Resurfacing and Drainage. Discussion transitioned into whether the joint meeting should be public or closed. Ms. Lustig responded that the vision was for a “summit” of the committees to align. Mr. Bulger mentioned that the chairs and members would create slides and discuss what projects have been done since the last meeting and what projects are upcoming. Different potential topics for the meeting were discussed, including carbon reduction, bike lanes, the Highland Ave. Project, and extension of the Rail Trail to Chestnut St. Mr. Frail recommended that any potentially big new ideas be the the

output of the joint meeting to present to the Select Board before the summer so it could be included the Select Board's goals for the year during their summer meeting, which inform budget discussions later in the year. The group agreed to the meeting being May 21st at 7:00 PM at the Public Safety Building. Mr. Gabrielski will send a calendar invite to the MPCC members and asked that it is forwarded to the Rail Trail Advisory Committee.

6:46 PM Updates Highland Ave. Roadway Improvements Project, Marked Tree Road Reconstruction and Street Design Guide:

Highland Ave Roadway Improvements Project -

Mr. Gabrielski discussed the recent public meeting about this project, which was well attended. There was a presentation and Q+A. There was a lot of feedback and lessons were learned as to how to better present the project to the public. Mr. Gabrielski suggested that in the future the presentation from the consultants be “translated” to allow for a greater understanding and background of projects for the public. The public raised a number of concerns about the addition of bike lanes. Ms. Lustig stated that many of the attendees interpreted the addition of bike lanes as a mandate, and as a result were resistant to the idea. She suggested the public would be more open to bike lanes if they were presented as a “value add” to the community. Mr. Gabrielski reiterated this and added that the assumption was that the community was already aware of the value added, so that’s not where the presentation focused. Mr. Frail suggested that future project presentations stress that the addition of bike lanes is actually a “value add” to drivers as well, and to include statistics about the increased safety for drivers.

Marked Tree Road Reconstruction -

Mr. Gabrielski shared the results of the abutter focused survey that was conducted to get feedback from the residents who are directly affected. The biggest issue that residents had was speeding. Mr. Gabrielski mentioned that traffic calming elements would be included in the design. It was also mentioned that during the speed study that was conducted in this area, speeding was not found to be an issue. Residents also had concerns about the duration of the construction and truck traffic. 64% of the residents who responded were in favor of the sidewalk only being on the south side of the road, rather than on both sides.

7:22 PM May Street Bike Lanes:

Mr. Gabrielski discussed that this summer May Street between Highland Ave. and Webster Street is being resurfaced, which will allow the Town to change the markers on the road and thus bring up the conversation about adding bike lanes to this area. Mr. Bulger mentioned the concern that some of the parking at Saint Joe’s is utilized as handicap parking/flex parking. Mr. Frail asked if we should be routing bicyclists directly into the center of town rather than around it, given the heavy traffic volume in that five-way intersection. Ms. Lustig suggested engaging the Saint Joe’s community as they may have a large biking community. Ms. Lustig and

Mr. Gabrielski decided to conduct observation hours in the area during school drop-off and pick up on both sides of the street to see how this would be impacted with potential smaller lanes and the addition of bike lanes. Ms. Lustig and Mr. Gabrielski agreed to get drawings done by Engineering for better visual representation.

7:48 PM Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. McCullen that the Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee vote to adjourn the meeting of Monday, March 10th, 2025.

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

The next Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday April 14th, 2025.