

Outer Cape Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting
Discussion Summary/Minutes
August 23, 2016
Truro Town Hall

Steering Committee Members in attendance: Max Cliggot-Perlt (Provincetown), Jay Norton (Truro), Karen Snow (Truro), Suzanne Thomas (Wellfleet), Martha Hevenor (CCC), Sarah Korjeff (CCC), Lauren McKean (NPS). Also attending: Jared Cabral (Truro DPW). Members absent: Eric Larsen.

The meeting came to order at 8:40 AM.

Before going through the agenda items, Jay introduced Jared, who will be filling in his slot when he leaves for another job in October. Committee members thanked Jay for his time and input on the committee over the last year.

1. June public workshop and July Board of Selectmen meetings debriefing: The group went over some of the comments from recent meetings. Suzanne noted the concerns voiced at the June workshop about using Cahoon Hollow Road. In response to one resident who stated during the breakout/mapping sessions that he owned to the centerline of the road, Suzanne checked with the assessor to confirm the town layout and learned that the town ROW is 40-50 feet for much of the road and narrow to 30' near the cemetery. Any changes to the road would be in the town ROW.

Karen commented on the Truro BOS meeting. She noted the discussion on Depot Road and said it the lowest priority and wished that the group had responded to some of the comments that were not accurate. Jay said that it may be hard for the BOS to visualize some of the proposal and wondered whether more visuals might help people understand. The group noted some misperceptions about bike planning. Lauren said in response to a comment about providing infrastructure for recreation, the primary route is more about providing connectivity along a corridor than about recreation. In response to comments that bringing more bicyclists through will impact ponds and other resources, Karen noted that she doesn't see that happening anywhere along the existing Cape Cod Rail Trail. Max said that bike trails increase value of neighboring properties. Her also noted that local businesses rely on tourism, and providing bicycling accommodations helps businesses. He expressed concern about the number of curb cuts on Route 6 in Wellfleet and Truro, noting that we lack a culture here where motorists are willing to wait for a bicyclist to make a turn.

The group discussed the issue on Route 6 where cars swerve into the shoulder to go around left-turning cars and endanger cyclists travelling in that space. Karen said the MassDOT bike lane/striping project should help. Suzanne said people are slow learners but that striping, signage, and educating bicyclists and motorists about the rules/laws is important. Lauren suggested signage to warn drivers not to swerve across the fog line into the shoulders. The group discussed potential approaches. Jay added that towns could be changing speed limits on local roads in the future, through a MassDOT option.

2. Secondary Routes Priorities:

Lauren suggested changing notes in the secondary routes table to say shoulder width to be determined, so the town can decide what is appropriate. The committee suggested making/finding a connection between 6A and Route 6 somewhere in the area between the town line and Stotts. They also discussed considering a crossing from the community center parking lot, rather than Standish Way, to Head of the Meadow since it would be a direct crossing. Jay noted that there is already talk underway to reconfigure the parking lots. Karen said the bike committee's top priorities are the Head of the Meadow – Standish Route 6 crossing, Stott's crossing. She also noted Highland Road, then Cornhill from Castle to the beach. Ryder is low priority. She said to remove Diana's Path. Jay and Karen felt that Shore Road/6A needs further study.

Max discussed Provincetown's priorities, noting he was OK with what we already have, though he wondered about the viability of climbing lanes on Bradford. Lauren noted no path widening would occur in the wetlands areas on Race Point Road. She suggested making it clear in the plan that no private land is involved.

3. Primary Route Implementation

NPS priority is Head of the Meadow segment. The group agreed on the following top priorities for other primary route segment implementation: Collins Road – South Pamet segment – this needs to be addressed to make it valid part of network, i.e. smooth areas at road edge for bikes; Route 6 segments; DCR railroad bed. For Provincetown, Max felt that Howland to Route 6 and Conwell or using Harry Kemp doesn't matter. The group discussed the lane diet option and how this could affect multi-use path location and resource impacts. Also one lane in vs. two lanes out. This needs to be included in report. The group thought the lane diet option could be studied as a UPWP project.

Karen suggested using connecting the railroad bed to the utility ROW to Long Pond Road. The group noted issues with that route such as grades private property and proximity to ponds/resources. The group noted that his could be identified as an area to reconsider, as route options in that area are reconsidered. Lauren noted it had been dismissed after Daniel Alexander presented his pre-screening report.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Meeting materials:
Alternatives Development Report