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LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Guiding the Development of Falmouth for the next 50 years

Town of Falmouth Planning Board



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Introduction

The purpose of the Local Comprehensive Plan is to act as a guide to help make our Town government more proactive, responsive, nimble, and resilient in the face of challenges both now and in the years to come. Each Element consists of *goals and policies* that are deliberately written to be far-reaching and universal. Following the Goals and Policies are the *action items* that are the nuts and bolts of how to plan for change, implement policies, and maintain those resources unique to Falmouth that make it such a desirable place to live, work, and play.

The *guiding principles* behind the construction of the plan consist of *vision, sustainability, flexibility, resiliency, and communication*, important values necessary to build a Comprehensive Plan that will live far into the future. It is designed to be concise, user-friendly, and easily monitored by the agencies and departments responsible for its implementation. The Plan segmented itself into three organizing principles:

- Developing a vision that would maintain that which is special about Falmouth, especially maintaining the resilience of our natural resources.
- Developing appreciation for our distinctive character by examining our land-use practices, recreation opportunities, and historic assets.
- Focusing on sustaining economic vitality, especially emphasizing the infrastructure necessary to attract and support the business sector.

All the Elements in this Plan directly correlate to the quality of life to be maintained, improved, or attained for those who live in and visit our Town. It lays out those things about our Town to be treasured and kept, such as our natural resources and our heritage, and it provides a vision for the future to secure that which is Falmouth.

The Local Comprehensive Plan is a dynamic document, designed to be easily modified as challenges are met and others appear. This Plan stresses throughout a proactive approach to potential risks, hazards, and changes not only in the physical environment, but also in the demographic and sociological challenges we will face in the future.

By constantly referencing this Local Comprehensive Plan, appropriate public and private organizations can help ensure our Town government is an entity responding to its citizens' needs. The all-encompassing aspiration of the Falmouth Local Comprehensive Plan is to provide the guidelines for our local government to be transparent, responsible, accountable, and responsive to those whom it is meant to serve.



Photo by Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority



Photo by Palmer House Inn



Photo supplied by Jim Fox

TRANSPORTATION

Narrative

Transportation binds our community to the world.

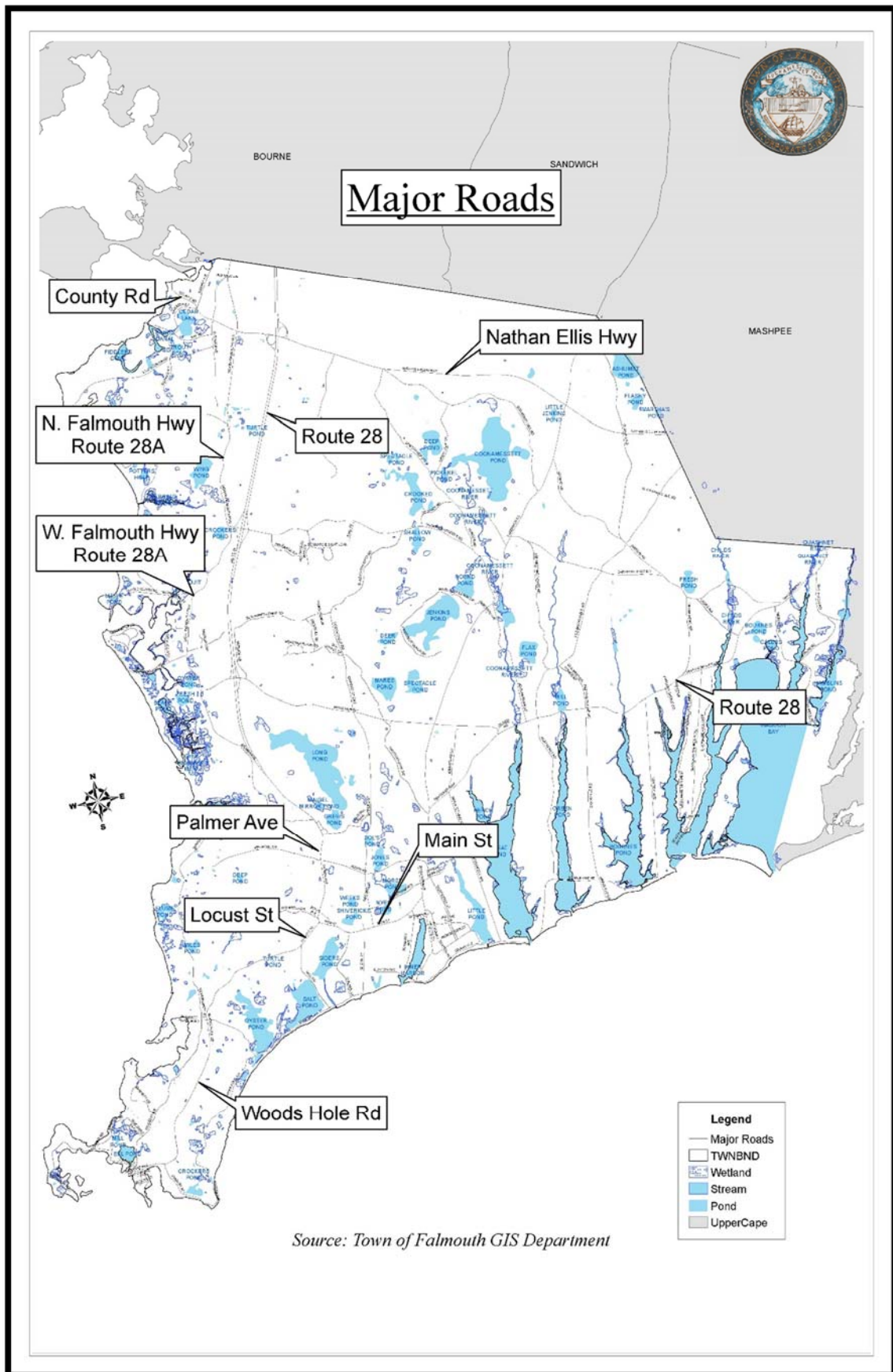
Our mobility is a key component to our economic and social well-being. Freedom to choose how we move about the planet will require some major paradigm shifts in order to provide safe and reliable transportation for all of our citizens. To accomplish this, we support the implementation and evolution of innovative and clean, low-impact transportation technologies.

We need to broaden the transportation choices for our citizens by incorporating the “complete streets” concept of transportation, whereby pedestrian, cyclist, and motorized vehicles can safely use the same transportation corridors.

Our future mobility will also depend on maximizing our regional inter-modal connectivity through cooperation with neighboring communities as we develop roadways, bikeways, and mass transit corridors. Falmouth will need to partner with public and private transit organizations to better utilize all transportation resources to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution.

Falmouth must also be dedicated to the maintenance and re-engineering of the corridors we currently use and others we choose to create in the future.

Transportation is not exclusive to how we move about. Transportation affects our economic development, how our land is utilized, how our town functions, and how it will look in the future.



Community Goal and Public Policies

Falmouth will increase transportation *choices and opportunities*.

Policy #1: Falmouth will increase the local and regional transportation system's efficiency, flexibility and resilience.

Policy #2: Falmouth will budget life-cycle maintenance for transportation infrastructure.

Policy #3: Falmouth will encourage alternate and environmentally sensitive modes of travel and promising emerging Technologies.

(Voted at November 2016 Town Meeting)

Action Items for Implementation:

- Strengthen partnerships with regional and state transportation agencies, private institutions and service providers to increase communication, share information and resources, and coordinate scheduling and programming.
 - Short-term: begin immediately and continue indefinitely.
 - Responsible Parties: DPW, Planning Department, Town Manager.
- Design and implement the improvements recommended in the Main Street/Rt-28 Transportation Master Plan" prepared by McMahan Associates, 2015.
 - Short-term: begin within the next 6 months.
 - Responsible Parties: DPW, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Meeting.
- Collaborate to develop multiple proposals to better manage Falmouth's transportation network, including wayfinding, a parking management plan, as well as the Commonwealth's Safe Routes to Schools Initiative.
 - Short-term: complete within the next year.
 - Responsible Parties: Board of Selectmen, DPW, Planning Board.
- Review subdivision design and construction standards for infrastructure investments and streetscape design considerations to further transportation goals.
 - Short-term: begin within the next year.
 - Responsible Parties: Planning Board.
- Strategically invest Ch. 90 funds to strengthen network connectivity.
 - Short-term and ongoing: begin within the next year.

- Responsible Parties: DPW& Planning Board.
- Begin to implement improvements recommended in the “Bike Plan” prepared by the Cape Cod Commission.
 - Short-term: begin within the next year.
 - Responsible Parties: Board of Selectmen, DPW, Bikeways Committee
- Comprehensively evaluate Falmouth’s existing public transportation infrastructure, including: age, quality, and maintenance needs. Identify future needs and gaps in service to develop a long-term plan for maintenance and strategic expansion. Pay particular attention to intermodal connections, accessibility, and safety improvements. Compile a baseline data inventory of resources.
 - Short-term: begin within the next year.
 - Long term: non-ending
 - Responsible Parties: DPW, Board of Selectmen.
- Develop a robust capital improvement planning process and corresponding capital budget to assess the entire infrastructure, facilities and equipment needs of the town and appropriately schedule maintenance and expansion projects.
 - Short-term: complete within the next 2 years.
 - Responsible Parties: DPW, Town Manager, Finance Director, Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, Town Meeting.
- Replace vehicles in the Town fleet with low-emission vehicles.
 - Short-term: begin within the next year and continue thereafter as replacement is scheduled.
 - Responsible Parties: DPW, Town Manager, Board of Selectmen, School Committee.
- Recommend zoning changes to allow alternative re-fueling stations.
 - Mid-term: complete within the next 5 years.
 - Responsible Parties: Planning Board, Town Meeting.
- Advocate for preservation and enhancement of rail capabilities.
 - Long-term: start immediately and continue indefinitely
 - Responsible Parties: DPW, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board