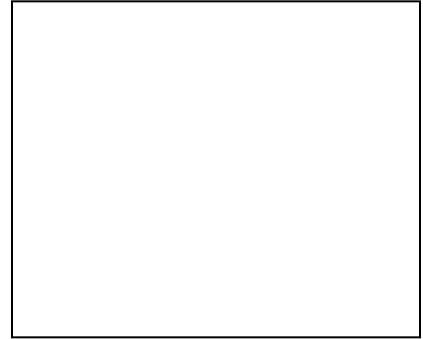


**Town of Fairhaven
Board of Public Works Meeting
November 4, 2024**

Present

Brian Wotton, Commissioner
Robert Hobson, Commissioner
Anne Morton Smith, Commissioner
Daniel Lopes, Commissioner
Hillary Rotondo, Commissioner
Vincent Furtado, BPW Superintendent
Rebecca Vento, Office Manager
Officer Scott Coelho, Safety Officer Police Dept.
Will Gardner, Chair of Fairhaven Livable Streets Committee
Bob Espindola, Member of Fairhaven Livable Streets Committee
Alliea Group, 228 Sconticut Neck Road
John Loughane, 6 Wampanoag Drive
Kelley Carton, 215 Sconticut Neck Road



I. Call to Order

Mr. Wotton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Wotton reconvened in open session at 7:38 p.m.

II. Routine Matters

A. Signing of Departmental Bills

III. Approval of Minutes

A. October 21, 2024

Mr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes from October 21, 2024. Ms. Smith seconded. Vote unanimous.

IV. Executive Session

- A. Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares (Water Department Personnel)**
- B. Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) "To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel": (Garage Supervisor)**
- C. Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares (14 Cherrystone Road)**
- D. Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2) "To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel": (Sewer Department Assessment)**

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V. Appointments

A. Will Gardner, Chair of Fairhaven Livable Streets Committee, Pilot Traffic Calming Project on Sconticut Neck Road between Orchard Street and Rockland Street

Mr. Gardner – I am the chair of the Livable Streets Committee, we used to be called the Bikeways Committee. Also, with me tonight is one of our members Bob Espindola. We are an advisory committee of the Select Board and we serve to give input on matters having to do with the bike path and wider streets for street safety. Last year we did a survey and we heard from a group of residents that were really concerned with the speeds on Sconticut Neck Road in their neighborhoods because there have been a few near misses or big accidents in these areas.

Mr. Gardner gave a presentation to the Board for a Pilot Traffic Calming Project on Sconticut Neck Road between Orchard Street and Rockland Street. (Attachment A).

Mr. Hobson – If you have a delivery driver trying to make a delivery where would they park?

Mr. Wotton – Would the posts be similar to what is on Sconticut Neck Road at David Drown Blvd and they would be removable for the winters? It is such a short stretch and maybe we could put one post on either end to identify it as a bike lane. I think putting them every 8 feet for a couple hundred-foot stretch would be a lot.

Mr. Gardner – Yes, it would be similar to the posts at David Drown Blvd and there would be large enough gaps for them to pull into. I will defer to Mr. Crabb on what is possible and to Public Safety with what they are comfortable with and we will work with them. If our committee needs to supply some materials we can help with that and then we could have a volunteer day to help build it and it would help with public education as well. With the approval from the BPW, we were hoping to keep this up for 6 months so we can collect some data and then we could review and see if we want to make it a permanent thing.

Officer Coelho – It would be the same thing as Alden Road just with the flex barriers.

Mr. Messier – I love what you are talking about here. I would like to ask Mr. Gardner to include something on Pleasant Street at the bike path. People zip right through the intersection with people trying to cross on the bike path. Could they install flex posts in the center of the intersections on the bike path to help slow people down?

Mr. Crabb- Relative to the bike path, we are looking at every intersection and we are proposing ADA improvement as well as intersection revisions when we do the overlay. I do not know if I would do flex posts, but one thing that I am exploring is raised tables and high visibility pavement markings.

Ms. Grouppe - I live on the corner of Rockland Street and Sconticut Neck Road. The challenge for me is I am at the turn and at the speed transition. My car has been hit twice just sitting in my driveway and I am on my third mailbox. I do not get my mail unless it is light out because people are coming around the turn so fast it is not safe. I am not sure what is going to help but this is a place to start, it's something to try.

Mr. Wotton - Do you think the flex posts in front of your property would help.

Ms. Grouppe- I would be fine with it, this is something to try to slow people down.

Mr. Loughnane – I have lived in town about three years and I ride my bike all the time. Biking in town is very confusing and no one really knows what is going on. I think that it is kind of a unique opportunity to derive consistency, that is why I think that the flexible posts would be helpful and people will know that when you're

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driving, riding a bike or walking that is how Fairhaven sets up zones, so whenever you see the flexible posts you know that it is an area to slowdown.

Ms. Carton – I work in my yard a majority of the day all summer long and my living room faces Sconticut Neck Road. I do not know what can be done but something needs to be done to make it safer. Someone is going to get really hurt. I have had a boat land in my front yard, it came right through my fence.

Ms. Smith- I think that this is a kind of thing that a town like ours needs, it feels different. Putting the flexible posts somewhere other than in a crosswalk, seems weird. I think it's really important to try something like this because people's lives are important. I ride my bike a lot, and there are new lines on Alden Road and I think that it is much better, but it's really not people were just mad and need a little bit more of a reminder that painted lines means slow down.

Mr. Lopes – If anyone is familiar with safety hierarchy of controls, there's a reason why engineering and administration controls are higher up on that triangle than PPE and enforcement. When I do safety inspections I'll catch the one guy wearing a hard hat and steel toe boots, and then there's that one guy that's not. But there's a lot of other people that I won't catch, and I'm only there doing those inspections once a day. We're trying to influence people's behavior. People make mistakes. This is a long strip of road where people speed down. Engineering controls when we look at roadways if there's a way to make that appear narrow and we're looking at low hanging fruit with low cost with just paint, and maybe some movable barriers I think it's worth it if it's going to save somebody at the end of the day. The only thing I would add is, if there's a method to collect some input on this. If this pilot were to go through both from the speeding and any complaints that you see along the way any modifications that you want to make.

Mr. Gardner - If this is put in place I was going to ask someone at SRPEDD to come and do a count and then also ask for people to take a survey.

Mr. Espindola – I just want to thank the Board for listening to the presentation and Mr. Gardner for all your help over the last few years bring these kinds of things forward.

Mr. Crabb - Tomorrow we are meeting with Mass DOT District 5 to discuss a potential transportation improvement program (TIP) which is a Federally and State funded program. Our wish list would be to rehab the entire corridor of Sconticut Neck Road from Route 6 down to Goulart Memorial Drive. The first step is to get the district involved and see what they are going to be amenable to and how much it is going to cost. This project will probably be a 7- 10-year process from start to finish. The Town has never done one of these projects before and the State is very eager to go after communities that have not participated yet, so we should be pretty favorable as long as we have an attractive project.

Mr. Wotton - I am looking forward to seeing the measurements, widths and what we are working with on Sconticut Neck Road before we make a final decision.

Ms. Smith motioned to approve the Pilot Traffic Calming Project on Sconticut Neck Road between Orchard Street and Rockland Street, this is to initiate the project for Mr. Crabb to get more information for the Board before making any final decisions. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

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VI. Item for Action

A. Sign Contract Agreement, GCG Associates, 1 Judd Street \$5,100.00

Mr. Lopes motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with GCG Associates in the amount of \$5,100.00 for Engineering Services at 1 Judd Street. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous

B. Sign Contract Agreement, GCG Associates, Sconticut Neck Road Water Main \$65,700.00

Mr. Hobson motioned to Sign the Contract Agreement with GCG Associates in the amount of \$65,700.00 for the Sconticut Neck Road Water Main. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous

C. Tree Department Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Furtado - Based on the input from the Board at the last meeting, our office reached out to the Town Administrator and collectively we formulated a memorandum of understanding between the Town Administrator and the Board of Public Works.

Mr. Furtado reviewed the Tree Department Memorandum of Understanding with the Board.

Mr. Crabb – The Tree Department is going to be a reactive department until we get this figured out.

Ms. Smith motioned to Sign the Tree Department Memorandum of Understanding between the Town Administrator and the Board of Public Works. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

D. Tania Eichinger, Geocache at Livesey Park

Ms. Rotondo motioned to allow Tania Eichinger to place a Geochche at Livesey Park. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

E. Troy Bourgeois, Dirty Diggin' Construction, New Water and Sewer Drainlayer

Mr. Wotton – We have a resident that has an emergency situation that a sewer pipe needs to be repaired.

Mr. Furtado – This came in on Friday and we are looking for the contractor to be approved to be a water and sewer drainlayer so he can make the necessary repairs.

Ms. Smith motioned to approve Dirty Diggin' Construction to be a new water and sewer drainlayer pending completion and inspection of the first job. Mr. Lopes seconded. Vote unanimous.

VI. Tabled Matters

A. Tree Department

B. Trash Fee Logistics

VII. Public Comments / Open Forum,

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VIII. Old Business / New Business

A. Superintendent

Superintendent Report for October 21, 2024

- POTW upgrade meetings
- Labor Counsel meetings
- Attend Fincom
- Attend Selectboard
- Newsletter completed – sent with water invoices
- Town Counsel re Betterment Apportionment
- CDBG logistics
- Communication Board Ceremony at Livesey
- BID opening for Water Plant Upgrade
- Town Meeting Committee
- Create/film water filter video
- Work with State re MRV Loan
- Army Corps Hurricane Barrier Inspection
- TA appoints Josh Tree Warden pending BPW approval
- Met with West Island IA re speed bumps
- Preconstruction Meeting for Judd St
- CWMP Draft
- Sewer Force Main Improvement Meeting
- Chair Monthly MRV Meeting

Mr. Furtado answered any questions that the Board had regarding the Superintendent Report.

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B. Board Members

Mr. Hobson - I received a couple of phone calls thanking the Highway Department for the work they did on Harborview Avenue. Could you send the sweeper down to Union Wharf? They are done with the construction and the pole has been removed. Have you had a chance to check Water Street between Washington Street and Union Street? The street is starting to cave in on one side.

Mr. Crabb - We are keeping an eye on Water Street. It is part of the pavement management plan.

Mr. Hobson – The stone wall at Shipyard Park needs to be trimmed.

Mr. Lopes – Nice job on Nancy Street you guys did a good job there.

C. Marine Resources Committee – BPW Related Matters

Mr. Hobson had no new information.

D. Community Preservation Committee – BPW Related Matters

Ms. Smith had no new information.

IX. Set Date for the Next Meeting

Mr. Wotton motioned to set the date for the next meeting on November 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Rotondo seconded. Vote unanimous.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Wotton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m. and enter into Executive Session to discuss Water Department Personnel, Garage Supervisor, 14 Cherrystone Road and Sewer Department Assessment and to reconvene in open session. Rollcall Vote: Mr. Wotton, Mr. Hobson, Ms. Smith, Mr. Lopes and Ms. Rotondo in favor.

Mr. Lopes motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Mr. Wotton seconded. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca L. Vento

Rebecca Vento
Office Manager

Minutes approved on November 18, 2024

Sconticut Neck Traffic Calming Pilot

Fairhaven Livable Streets

The Challenge: Driver Safety



The Challenge: Quality of Life



The Challenge: Safety of People Biking



The Challenge

From a 2006 SRPEDD study:

Crash Data

Crash data was compiled for the most recent 3 year period for which data was available (2004 through 2006.) A fatal crash from 2003 was also included in the data reviewed.

There were a total of 18 crashes characterized as lane departure during the study period, an overwhelming 83% of which resulted in injury or fatality. This is significant as this rate of injury is the highest percentage of all audited corridors in the region. (Of the 11 corridors in the region targeted for audit, the average injury rate was 50%).

The Challenge: Safety of People Walking



How Do We Reduce Speeding in These Neighborhoods?



What Causes Speeding?

**Design a street like a
highway**



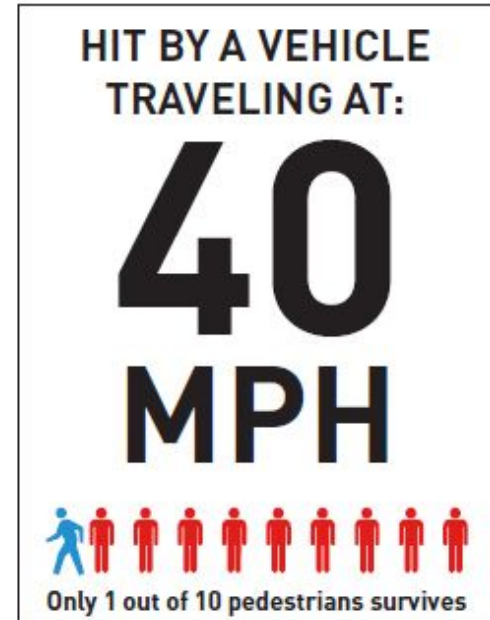
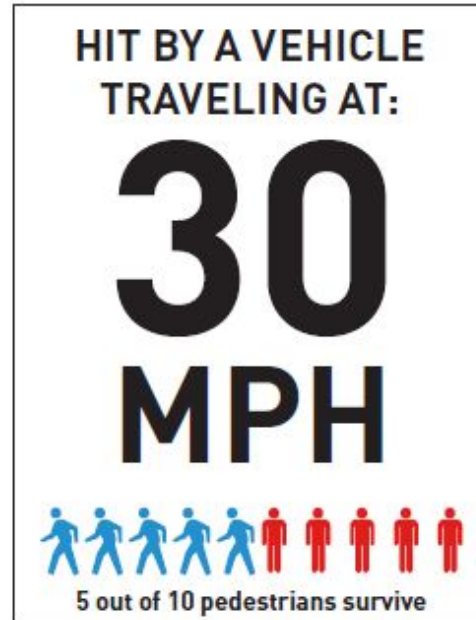
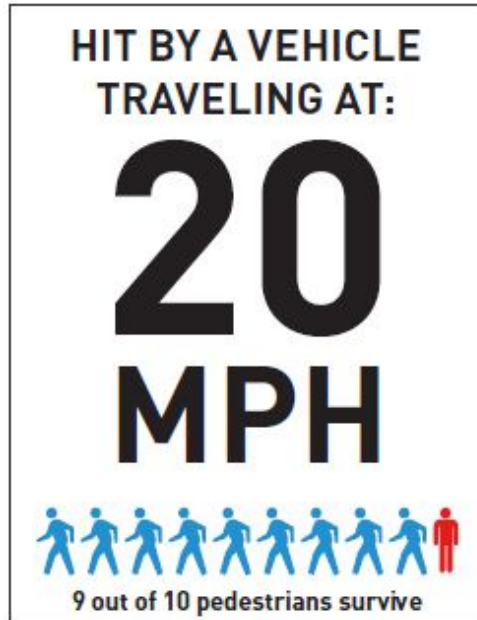
**and people will drive it
like a highway.**



What Causes Speeding?



Why Focus on Vehicle Speeds?



What is Traffic Calming?

- **Traffic calming** is the use of physical design and other measures to improve safety for motorists, car drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. It has become a tool to combat speeding and other unsafe behaviours of drivers.



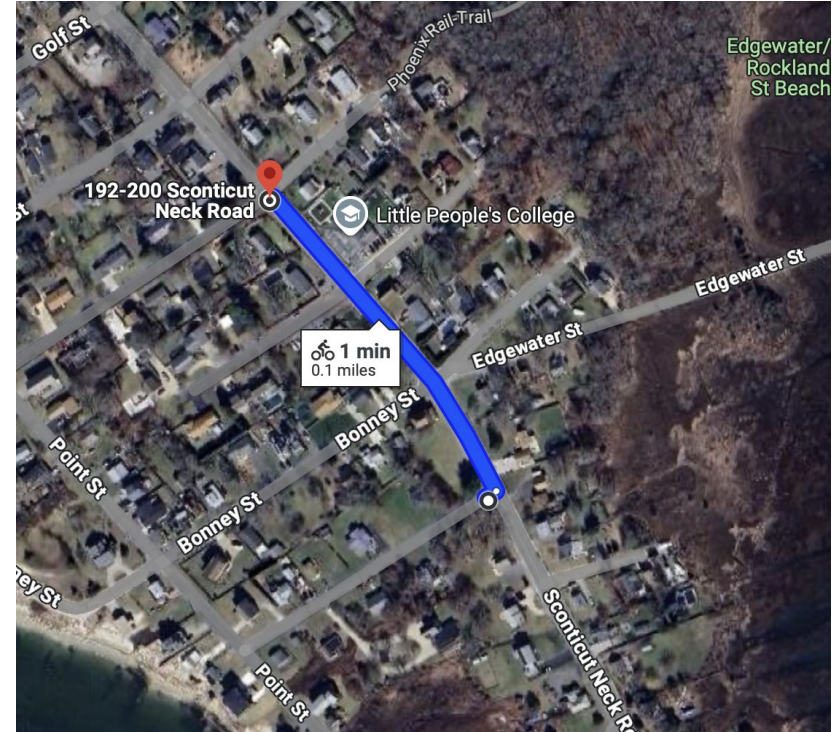
Why Conduct a Pilot?

- A pilot is a tool to take immediate action on safety issues
- An adaptable and very low-cost and low-risk way to determine what might work in a given area before committing to longer term, more expensive measures
- Opportunity for public engagement and education, building support for the work of the town on these issues



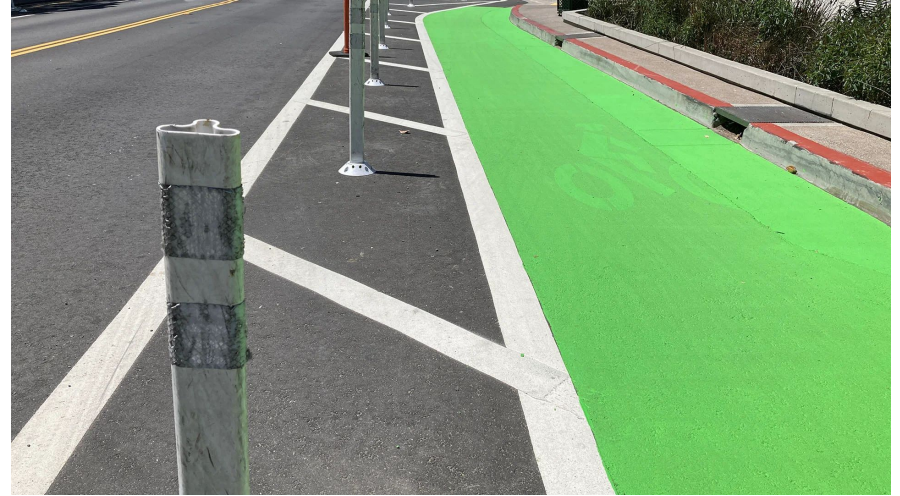
Location of Pilot

- Orchard St (intersection with Phoenix Trail Extension) to Rockland St
- .1 mi (528 ft)
- Extends reach of rail trail to adjacent neighborhoods
- Calms traffic near dangerous Edgewater intersection
- Posted speed changes to 25 mi within this section
- Day Care Center



Proposed Design

- Paint shoulder green to indicate bike path.
Stencil bike symbol on path.
- Paint 12-24" buffer using white lanes (similar to Alden Rd).
- Demarcate boundary using flexposts* (every 8-20 feet)
 - *Possibly use plastic barriers or planters in strategic locations (ie outside of daycare) - concrete barriers if available/permitted
- Add signage to the middle of the road at the Orchard St. crossing



Draft Timeline

OCTOBER

- Design/Plan Pilot
- Initial Data Collection
- Get public safety/fire input
- Finalize Date
- Recruit Volunteers + Publicize

NOVEMBER

- Nov 4 Seek BPW approval
- Build Day + Celebration
- Launch Survey/Feedback

NOVEMBER → APRIL

- Pilot in place, monthly mtg's to gauge effectiveness and tweak

APRIL

- Final data collection + reporting
- Determine next steps based on info gained from pilot

Questions + Comments?

