

Attendees:

David McCarthy
Jeannie Adamowicz
Michele Sedler
Patrick Adams – Maine DoT
DeCarlo Brown – Planning Department
Dean Lessard - DPW

Note: Meeting was held via Zoom

Topics Discussed:

1. Maine Department of Transportation Partnership Initiatives:

Patrick Adams, the Active Transportation Planner for the Maine Department of Transportation, joined the committee to discuss the recently announced Village Partnership Initiative as well as other initiatives in which Maine DoT partners with Towns to support improvement to our transportation network efficiency and safety. A summary of the initiatives is provided in the attached table.

The Town of York has been an active participant in the Municipal Partnership Initiative (MPI) for many years. Additional opportunities may be identified for MPI, the Planning partnership Initiative (PPI) and the Business Partnership Initiative (PPI) to support Comprehensive Plan strategies now under review.

The Village Partnership (VPI) was recently announced in conjunction with the release of the Maine DoT Three Year Plan. VPI processes and procedures are in the draft stage. As currently planned, VPI offers 80% federal funding with 10% match by the state and Town. The scope of the program appears to offer many possibilities for active transportation enhancements and other goals for the Town and the Bike/Ped Committee.

As stated in the press release:

“Maine DOT is adding a Village Partnership Initiative to its suite of community-based initiatives. This Village Partnership Initiative will be focused on improving lower-speed areas where people meet, walk, shop, and do business. These projects can vary from small, safety improvements to larger, once-in-a-lifetime, place-making investments.”

2. Statewide Active Transportation Plan:

Active transportation is generally defined as moving people and goods from place to place without using motorized vehicles. Using active transportation reduces vehicle miles traveled and consequent generation of greenhouse gasses, traffic congestion, and wear and tear on roads and bridges. It also provides walkers, bikers, and society in general with improved physical fitness and health benefits.

The State of Maine has chartered a working group to develop a state-wide active transportation plan which will, among other things:

- Document existing active transportation trails and gaps to be filled to connect people and places they go.
- Analyze abandoned rail lines for possible active transportation routes.
- Provide policies and processes to prioritize funding for active transportation projects.

The Plan is expected to be complete in December 2022. The group is currently documenting existing conditions. Focus groups will be conducted this spring. A draft will be presented for comment in late summer. After the final plan is issued, legislation to implement the recommendations will be submitted in January 2023..

3. Creating and marketing walks for residents and visitors:

Dean Lessard will be presenting a proposal to establish a signed walk for residents and tourists to enjoy. His initial target is a Beach Walk centered around Long Sands Beach. Dean proposes that a group be convened to determine the route of this walk and subsequent walks. The group would consider if the walk s would have a theme such as an historical walk with signs for sites along the route or a fitness walk with exercise stations. Dean asked if the Committee wished to participate in this effort. We are in full support of establishing these walks and agreed to participate in the working group. The idea will be brought to the Selectboard on Monday, Feb 28. The meeting starts at 7:00.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 17, 2022 – 12:00 

Should conditions allow, the meeting may be changed to in-person at the York Public Library.

Agenda:

Comprehensive Plan and Climate Action Plan updates
Continue 2022 bike/ped event planning
Review of Bike/Ped Master Plan Recommendations for updating
Approve minutes
Citizen input