

**Town of Needham
Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee
Minutes for Monday, December 9, 2024**

HYBRID

Great Plain Room, Needham Town Hall
1471 Highland Ave, Needham MA 02492

or

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89968969859>

+1 305 224 1968 US; +1 309 205 3325 US; +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

ADOPTED JANUARY 13, 2025

- 7:00 p.m. Call to Order:
A meeting of the Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee was convened by Tim Bulger, Chair. Those present in-person were Guus Driessen, Stephen Frail, Tyler Gabrielski, Moe Handel, Shane Mark, and Paul Molta. Duncan Allen joined via Zoom.
- 7:02 p.m. Approve Minutes from October 17 and November 4, 2024:

Motion by Mr. Handel to approve the meeting minutes from October 17 November 4, 2024.
Second: Mr. Driessen. Unanimously approved 6-0.
- 7:02 p.m. Bike Plan and Map (Continued):

Mr. Bulger presented the updated Bike Plan and Map and opened for discussion. Mr. Frail asked about how the Bike Map fits into the large climate plan for the Town and how we encourage individuals to use alternate forms of transportation such as public transportation and bicycles. Discussion ensued about the existing and proposed bike lanes that may be possible in order to ensure gaps of safe bike lanes are filled. Mr. Frail emphasized that Central Ave and South Street are very heavily used cycling roads in Needham, and there is no cycling infrastructure on them at all. He encouraged significant action with the Select Board, Town Manager, and Town Meeting in order to protect bicyclists on these roads. Other factors discussed included street parking and private company trash bins in the roadways. The goal for this document is to be publicly available and potentially overlaid with a GIS layer. Committee members discussed next steps for the Bike Map and necessary work to be completed before bringing the plan to Town leadership.
- 7:47 p.m. Sidewalk Maintenance Plan/Removal Pilot (Continued):

Committee members then discussed the Sidewalk Maintenance Plan as previously discussed at a prior meeting. Mr. Bulger raised the document for discussion. Topics discussed included funding sources for this work, strategies for sidewalk

maintenance from other communities, progress so far on the Sidewalk Maintenance Plan, and the details of discussing these topics with residents.

MPCC members agreed that creating a community-wide effort focused on improving sidewalks townwide as opposed to a problem-fixing approach for individual neighborhoods and streets would be more effective in creating cooperation from residents. Mr. Gabrielski presented a potential area for targeted work to begin on this project as part of the pilot program. Mr. Handel recommended holding neighborhood meetings for groups of streets that are potentially targeted for this work and processing information from residents before making decisions. Committee members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of discussing the pilot program townwide or focusing on the specific neighborhoods and agreed that the neighborhood approach would likely result in more targeted and productive feedback. Mr. Gabrielski noted that would report back at the January meeting with further information about planning for these meetings.

8:41 p.m. Highland Ave TIP Project – Potential Letter of Support:

Mr. Bulger proposed writing a request letter from the MPCC that the Highland Ave Project be included in the Boston region's TIP Program.

Motion by Mr. Frail that Mr. Bulger write a letter of support that the Highland Ave Project be included in the TIP Program.

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

Mr. Gabrielski added that there remain some revisions to complete to the plan; the majority of the improvements are focused on integrating a bike lane and pedestrian safety improvements. The consultant is planning to conduct a survey that will be aimed towards the cyclist community talking about the different types of infrastructure and respondent preferences.

8:50 p.m. Future Meeting Dates:

The Committee discussed future meeting dates and agreed that the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. is the best day and time.

8:52 p.m. Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Handel that the Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee vote to adjourn the meeting of Monday, December 9, 2024.

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

The next Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 13, 2024 at 6 p.m.