

**ROUTE 6A CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT CONCEPTS  
MAY 2019 PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS**

**DISCUSSION TOPICS**

**October 25, 2019**

Through careful evaluation of the comments received from the three Public Meetings held in May on the Route 6A corridor improvement concepts, potential action items have been identified below by Town Staff for consideration by the Board of Selectmen (BOS). Specific functional/safety issues have also been identified along with potential solutions that range from simple to more complex.

1. **Undergrounding Utilities**: Have our consultant, VHB, prepare a Memo outlining the issues, process, timeline and costs related to undergrounding utilities. Consider emphasizing undergrounding utilities just within the Village Center (Bank to Pediatric Office) or consider throughout the Captains Mile (Mill Lane to Union).
2. **Speed Limits**: Coordinate with the Cape Cod Commission (CCC) or VHB for a speed study through the Village Center and identify extenuating circumstances which may allow for a reduction in speeds through the Village.
3. **Intersection Traffic Evaluations**: Coordinate with the CCC or Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) to have Road Safety Audits conducted at the Route 6A and Willow/Union Intersections. These Audits are the first step in the design process for any future intersection improvements.
4. **Gateway Signage**: Consider moving forward with identifying a design and funding sources for gateway signage. Evaluate potential locations and coordinate with stakeholders and Old Kings Highway (OKH).
5. **Crosswalks/Sidewalks**:
  - a. **Basic Functional Issues**:
    - Lack of handicap ramps and tactile warning strips at many crosswalks.
    - Worn crosswalk markings.
    - Some destination locations lack crosswalks/sidewalks.
    - Limited sidewalks on the south side of Route 6A.
  - b. **Concepts**: There was interest in upgrading the crosswalks for safety, but there was tepid interest in making the sidewalks fully handicap compliant by widening to 5' everywhere or extending the sidewalks to the south side due to impacts to trees and the historic character of the area to meet current standards.
    - i. Coordinate with MassDOT on maintenance of existing sidewalks (i.e. trimming vegetation, sweeping sidewalks and repairing small deteriorated segments.)
    - ii. Install piano key striping and handicap curb ramps with tactile warnings at all existing crosswalks. Consider other types of crosswalk markings (textured or colored), if desired by the community. Coordinate with any drainage improvements needed for curb ramp installation.

- iii. Add new crosswalks along Route 6A at the locations shown per the VHB plan, if supported by the community.
- iv. Add new crosswalks at side roads with curb ramps/tactile warning strips.

6. **Village Center - South Side:**

a. **Basic Functional Issues:**

- Parking on the sidewalk.
- Existing antique granite curbing paved over in some areas with minimal reveal (allows for parking on the sidewalk).
- Happy Fish Bakery and Inaho customers seem unaware of the large parking areas behind their buildings resulting in overparking on the street/sidewalks or parking at adjacent businesses with parking in the front (Barfields).
- Large expanse of parking/pavement near Minden Lane resulting in safety issues for pedestrians, vehicles cutting the corner over the front parking, and using the area as a turn around.

b. **Concepts:** General comments were to maintain the existing character of the Village and not urbanize it, improve pedestrian safety, address parking on the southern sidewalk, encourage patrons to use the large parking areas in the rear, maintain parking/access in the Minden Lane area, and that some improvements to the village would help to enhance the area and make it more attractive.

- i. Leave on-street parking undefined as businesses do not appear to want to stripe it.
- ii. Develop standard signage approved by OKH that identifies parking in the rear and post at Happy Fish, Jacks Outback and Inaho driveways (heaviest users with large parking areas in the rear).
- iii. Improve Crosswalk at Sandyside Lane with piano keys and handicap ramps. Consider other types of crosswalk markings (textured or colored) if desired by the community. Consider adding southern bulb out with gateway element, signage and/or decorative lighting. This will help define the entrance to the Village, provide for safer pedestrian crossing and better define the on-street parking (even without striping).
- iv. Install a new Crosswalk at Happy Fish Bakery. Crosswalk will help drivers know they are entering a pedestrian area and provides 2 crosswalks in the Village Center.
- v. **Sidewalks:** Some sidewalk improvements on the south side could be done to address some of the functional issues outlined above.
  - a. **Minden Lane:** Create a defined pedestrian route with mountable sidewalk in a different material in conjunction with striping to define Minden Lane. Could also consider treating Minden Lane with a crosswalk and tactile warning strips to further differentiate the sidewalk in front of the businesses from the roadway. These proposals would retain the functionality of the front parking but help delineate the pedestrian walkway and the limits of Minden Lane. Coordinate with business owners.
  - b. Remove and reset existing antique granite curbing on south side (supplement with antique stone curbing as needed). Reconstruct sidewalk in this area due to raised curbing and provide 6' minimum width next to parking. Set curb

location to allow for wider on-street parking per the VHB plan. Sidewalk could remain asphalt or consider other materials if acceptable to the community. Where existing granite curbing ends along the eastern end of the village (by Happy Fish Bakery) use asphalt curbing, grass and 5' sidewalk.

- c. If sidewalk improvements are being made, consider further vetting of the concept of decorative pedestrian level lighting within the village center. The style of lighting would need further public input.

7. **Village Center - North Side:**

a. **Basic Functional Issues:**

- Parking on the sidewalk.
- Parking/mail trucks on the side of the road cause rutting in the grass areas which creates ponding.
- Lack of maintenance of the grass strips.

b. **Concepts:** General comments were to not overdo improvements in the Village Center and make it look too urban. There was little discussion on north side on-street parking which abuts residential properties.

- i. Restore the grass areas, install no parking signs, increase police enforcement and coordinate with abutters on grass strip maintenance. Consider repair to asphalt curbing if needed.
- ii. Install antique stone curbing and restore the grass strips to physically prevent people from mounting the curb and parking, and coordinate with abutters on grass strip maintenance. Locate curbing 1-2' off travel lane to better accommodate cyclists. This option avoids no parking signs, but may require relocation of one mailbox and one newspaper box.

8. **Summer Street:**

a. **Basic Functional Issues:**

- People are crossing Summer Street to get to the Post Office as evidenced by the worn path in the grass from Summer Street to the Post Office. Wide mouth of the intersection and quick turning movements noted in this area make it unsafe to cross near Route 6A.
- Location of the pump abutting the roadway makes it difficult to view at the pedestrian level and is located at a busy intersection.
- Tight curve along Route 6A is a safety issue and has resulted in the need for unattractive utilitarian signage and flashing lights for safety reasons.

b. **Concepts:** Most people were not in favor of the proposed reconfiguration of this intersection, moving the pump or extension of the sidewalk to the post office. Therefore, concepts outlined below assume no significant geometric changes and no changes to the existing traffic signage/flashing lights:

- i. Provide a dashed white fog line at Summer Street to help traffic traverse the curve, especially at night.
- ii. Consider providing a safer location to cross that is not at the widest mouth of the intersection. This may require the crosswalk to be located further down Summer

Street and require a small segment of sidewalk on the east side (even if no sidewalk extension is provided to the Post Office).

9. **Common:**

a. **Basic Functional Issues:**

- Lack of handicap accessible crosswalk or access to the Common from the north side sidewalk.
- No pedestrian route for those that park around the Common to the New Church or sidewalk on north side.

b. **Concepts:** Little interest was shown in providing a sidewalk on the south side.

- i. Upgrade existing crosswalk with handicap ramps and piano keys (or other types of crosswalk).
- ii. Based on public comments, consider no sidewalk on the south side.

10. **Village Store:**

a. **Basic Functional Issues:**

- Large expanse of parking/pavement resulting in safety issues for pedestrians.
- Sidewalk is lower than the roadway making existing catch basins ineffective.

b. **Concepts:** There were no specific comments on the reconfiguration of this area and further discussions with the property/business owner would be required if desire to move forward with improvements.

- i. Define curb cut openings to meet business needs with access to the rear of the property and for customer parking and deliveries. Coordinate with property owner and business.
- ii. Add rolled curb, grass strip and 5' asphalt sidewalk.
- iii. Address drainage issues, possibly relocating existing catch basins.

11. **Drainage:**

a. **Basic Functional Issues:**

- Catch basins not in the correct location to address drainage and/or not placed up against the gutter lines (i.e. in front of Happy Fish Bakery). Some areas of ponding.
- Some locations where sidewalk is lower than the roadway with no existing green strip along north side resulting in drainage discharging off the roadway onto private property rather than into the nearby catch basins. This scenario also offers less protection for pedestrians.
- In some locations there is limited ROW to allow for soft curb, grass strip and sidewalk.

b. **Concepts:** There was little discussion on drainage at the public meetings, but this is a functional safety issue.

- i. Relocate/install new catch basins as needed to address ponding issues.
- ii. Where there is insufficient ROW, consider short segments of antique stone curbing with abutting sidewalk.

- iii. Evaluate obtaining additional ROW or permanent easements in some locations to allow for soft curb, grass strip and sidewalk in these limited areas where drainage improvements are needed, if preferred by the community.

12. **Pavement:**

a. **Basic Functional Issues:**

- Overlays have been placed on top of the existing pavement which has resulted in drainage issues, paving over curbing and locations where the sidewalk is lower than the roadway.

b. **Concepts:** There was no discussion of this issue at the public meetings.

- i. When MassDOT repaves Route 6A, require the removal of old overlays to get grades back to where they were prior to the top coat overlays.

13. **Additional input:** A number of the complex concepts would require more outreach with specific groups as well as further resource allocations and public input meetings. Some specific groups would include:

- a. Village Center abutters and businesses.
- b. Historic groups (OKH, New Church, HSOY).
- c. Village Store property/business owner.
- d. Police and Fire.

14. **Implementation:** Once the Town has determined the corridor improvements they would like to see, there are a variety of ways of implementing depending on how significant they are.

- a. What improvements can be incorporated into the watermain project, which will be done in the next few years (i.e. sidewalks, drainage)?
- b. What can be incorporated into a Maintenance Program with MassDOT? (i.e. maintenance/repairs of sidewalks, possibly crosswalks).
- c. What are the larger projects that may need to go on the TIP or be permitted and paid for by the Town (undergrounding utilities, reconstruction of the Village Center)?