

**Town of Needham
Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee
Minutes for Monday, August 12, 2024**

HYBRID

Charles River Room, Public Services Administration Building
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or

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ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

- 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 Duncan Allen, Tyler Gabrielski, James Goldstein, Paul Molta. Alex Clee, Carys Lustig, and Justin McCullen joined via Zoom.
- 7:02 p.m. Approve Minutes from July 22, 2024:

Motion by Mr. McCullen to approve the meeting minutes from July 22, 2024 subject to discussion.
Second: Mr. Goldstein. Unanimously approved 5-0.
- 7:05 p.m. Presentation from Mary Tenenbaum Regarding Orange Line Extension:

Community member from West Roxbury Mary Tenenbaum presented on the potential Needham Line modernization idea to extend the Orange Line. She presented that the TransitMatters proposal aims to modernize access through SW Boston by converting the Needham Line to the Orange Line to Millennium Park/West Roxbury Education Complex. Additionally, the proposal aims to modernize access in Needham/Newton with the Green Line along the revived existing but unused right of way. This is estimated to be more cost effective per rider than running the Needham Line as a regional rail.

Ms. Tenenbaum outlined the current situation and present challenges, as well as future directions regarding coordination of feasibility assessment and MBTA assessment and theorizing different models of transit through the wetlands area in West Roxbury. Discussion ensued regarding several of the historical efforts to improve the transit system and connecting various lines, electrification of the Commuter Rail, and the frequency of past and current train schedules.

7:43 p.m. Discussion Items Referred to MPCC from Select Board:

Town-Wide Bike Route Map

The Committee discussed creating a Town-wide bike route map to use as a planning tool. This would identify which roads would ideally have a bike lane and where bike lane traffic could be channeled. This map could be GIS-based. The Committee discussed where this map would begin and explore the strengths and limitations of where to expand the bike route map. Mr. McCullen expressed his support for increasing bike lanes and also asked about the implications of implementing bike lanes on parking policy in Town. Committee members agreed this is an important implication to discuss with the Select Board, especially with regarding to risk management and injury and high traffic areas. Discussion ensued about the different approaches to the bike lane implementation process in conjunction with the Select Board.

Expanding Bike Infrastructure

The Committee discussed that this item is closely related to the Town-wide bike route map and will include bike lanes and bike racks.

Mountain Bike Trail Parallel to Greendale Avenue SB (starting at Kendrick Street)

Committee members discussed the creation of a mountain biker trail extending south from Kendrick Street and parallel to Greendale Avenue and concluded this was not under the charge of this Committee and could potentially be directed to Park & Recreation.

Bicycles on Sidewalks

The Committee discussed the issue of bicycles on sidewalks and how this will be addressed more specifically with the advancement of the renovation of the Downtown area.

8:27 p.m. Off Street Trails:

Mr. Goldstein updated the Committee that the Town of Dover is moving forward with their pedestrian-bike greenway which will extend from the Medfield line to Needham line. Ms. Lustig added that a joint project between Dover and Needham will include a bike lane on a bridge to be constructed abutting the Rail Trail. There is a possibility for a path to be added on the Needham Rail Trail to this bridge to provide a sufficient path to connect. She also noted that a bike trail that connects Medfield, Needham, and Dover to an economic center and commuter amenities will be appealing to the State as well for investment for connection at the Junction. Mr. Goldstein noted that the Rail Trail Advisory Committee is very interested in how they can collaborate with the Town to facilitate these projects.

8:31 p.m. Updates on Needham Center Project Working Group and Complete Streets Prioritization Plan:

Mr. Gabrielski updated that the Working Group is being voted on and will have a member from the MPCC as well as from other committees in Town. The Complete Streets Prioritization Plan will need to be updated to include the Downtown Project to be considered eligible for funding.

8:44 p.m. Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. McCullen that the Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee vote to adjourn the meeting of Monday, August 12, 2024.

Second: Mr. Allen. Unanimously approved 5-0.

The next Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2024 at 7 p.m.