

**Town of Needham
Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee
Minutes for Monday, June 9, 2025**

HYBRID

Charles River Room, Public Services Administration Building
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or

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ADOPTED JULY 14, 2025

- 6:00 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, Tyler Gabrielski, Carys Lustig, Shane Mark, and Wooseong Kwon. Duncan Allen, James Goldstein, and Justin McCullen joined via Zoom.
- 6:02 p.m. Public Comment Period

Lou Wolfson, 29 Cimino Road, commented his concerns that the MPCC has not received public input on bike lanes in the community. He expressed his concern about the Harris Ave project and that the residents are unaware of any plan, as well as businesses near Hersey Station on Great Plain Ave and the project on May Street. He referenced the prior Bike Plan Study completed in 2000 and the various options, including the recommendation that Manning Street be utilized as a bike route instead of Great Plain Ave with a sign alerting drivers to share the road near Brookline Street. He added that Webster Street is a viable alternative to Highland Ave as it is wide enough for a 4 foot bicycle lane. He urged the Mobility Committee to listen to public input on all of these important issues and take cost into consideration as well.
- 6:06 p.m. Approve Minutes from April 14, 2025:

**Motion by Mr. Driessen to approve the meeting minutes from April 14, 2025.
Second: Mr. McCullen. Unanimously approved 6-0.**
- 6:07 p.m. Sidewalk Pilot Community Meeting

Mr. Gabrielski provided an update to the Committee on the upcoming neighborhood meeting regarding the sidewalk program. Mr. Gabrielski has drafted a notice, keeping information broad with plans to provide further details at the meeting itself. This meeting would take place in the fall to maximize attendance. Mr. Bulger clarified that the meeting would encompass all neighborhoods. If there is interest at the meeting, the Town will work with candidate locations on sidewalk planning. Mr. Goldstein commented that “strategic removal” will need more

explanation to residents and clarity on why certain neighborhoods are candidates for the program. Ms. Lustig added that resident outreach and traffic levels are part of that explanation and that it will be important to emphasize that no decisions have been made yet and this is the start of the process.

Discussion continued about choice of sidewalk material and the process for creating a policy. Mr. Goldstein asked whether Prince and Coolidge Streets are still on track for work at the end of the summer; Mr. Gabrielski noted that the priority is ramp compliance for paving. The work schedule has shifted by a couple of weeks, but they are still on the schedule.

6:31 p.m. Next Steps for Harris Ave/Great Plain Ave and May St Complete Streets

Ms. Lustig reported that due to the Pollard project, Harris Ave should be put on hold for the moment. She also noted that regarding May Street, the Select Board will ask if DPW has engaged with stakeholders, including abutting properties. Neighborhood meetings can occur during the summer. Mr. Gabrielski added that the engineers in-house can help to develop a plan for May Street. Discussion with the crossing guard at St. Joseph's School and discussion with the church will be important to these decision-making processes, including about the bike lane. Committee members then discussed the width of travel lanes for vehicles and what this means for bike lanes as well and examples around Town of what these lanes look like.

Members also discussed parking on roads where bike lanes might be added and what communication looks like with residents and businesses on these roads. Communication with businesses across from Hersey Station will be necessary in the short-term to make them aware of any road changes. Mr. Goldstein added that loss of parking requires discussion with businesses and asked about how DPW standard operating procedures are developed and finalized as this may assist in decision-making in situations where the hardscape is changed or there is a loss of designated parking. Ms. Lustig made the point that it is important to notify residents of work before beginning as this is when most negative feedback has been received in the past.

7:01 p.m. MPCC Priorities re: Intersection Designs

Mr. Bulger noted that the intersection at Central Ave and Great Plain Ave has brought this issue to the Committee's attention. Ms. Lustig added that she will find out further information about the next intersection that is likely to be addressed; it is likely to be Central Ave and Gould Street or Central Ave and Gould Street and Highland Ave, which would be completed with a private developer under the Town's guidance as the Muzi property is redeveloped.

Mr. Gabrielski added that the current focus of the design team is the Marked Tree Road project and the associated intersection. Ms. Lustig noted that this will include

a one sidewalk layout; collecting feedback from the MPCC will be important before presenting to the Select Board. Ms. Driessen noted that inviting the TSC to give feedback is a consideration as well.

7:11 p.m. Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Driessen that the Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee vote to adjourn the meeting of Monday, June 9, 2025.

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

The next Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 14, 2025 at 6 p.m.