Town of Needham Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee Minutes for Monday, July 14, 2025 HYBRID

Charles River Room, Public Services Administration Building 500 Dedham Ave, Needham MA 02492

Of

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ADOPTED OCTOBER 20, 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 Duncan Allen, Guus Driessen, Stephen Frail, Tyler Gabrielski, James Goldstein, Carys Lustig, Shane Mark, and Justin McCullen. Paul Molta and Wooseong Kwon joined via Zoom.

6:01 p.m. Public Comment Period

No public comments were heard.

6:01 p.m. Approve Minutes from June 9, 2025:

Motion by Mr. McCullen to approve the meeting minutes from June 9, 2025. Second: Mr. Driessen. Approved 6-0-2.

6:02 p.m. Update on Great Plain Ave Restriping

Mr. Gabrielski updated the MPCC that this is the final iteration of this project. The Town received monies from the Transportation Network Tax on Ubers and Lyfts that are within the Town borders to be earmarked for sustainable/multimodal transportation. The Town has contracted with Fuss & O'Neill to develop concept plans for Harris Avenue and a section of Great Plain Avenue between Harris Avenue and the Dedham line. The latest iteration is a version that retains the parking at its current location near the Hersey station and the commercial area across Great Plain Avenue but changes the road profile in a way that the parking could be converted in certain places in the future. The bike lane would be in between parked cars and sidewalk on the south side of the Great Plain Avenue.

Discussion ensued regarding how this work will affect the intersection at Great Plain Ave and Greendale Ave. This included how clear the bike lanes will be, how it will affect parking habits for residents along this stretch, and enforcement of parking regulations once bike lanes are added. The Committee also discussed whether notification to residents is necessary, as well as the comfort level of bicyclists utilizing the bike lanes at the intersection of Greendale Ave and Great

Plain Ave and the associated decisions related to lane markings. Mr. Gabrielski noted that the upcoming surface treatment will take place during the third week of August, and the markings will be added a couple of weeks after that. Mr. McCullen noted that there is a stop line but no stop sign at the intersection of Green Street and Great Plain Ave. Mr. Gabrielski made a note of this and will investigate the current regulation. Mr. Driessen asked about the kind of lines that will be painted to delineate parking spaces. Ms. Lustig added that she will be discussing this project with the Select Board at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Goldstein commented that notification to abutters may be beneficial in this instance.

The next steps for this project will be the create a striping plan, work with the Town Engineering Department to lay it out in the field for the marking crew, and complete the striping overnight.

6:41 p.m. Semi-Annual Meeting of the Transportation Committees

Mr. Bulger opened discussion of the upcoming Semi-Annual Meeting of the Transportation Committees. Mr. Frail noted that prioritizing the MPCC's goals and communicating these to the Select Board during the summer allows for potentially more effective prioritizing of funds to these areas.

Committee members discussed the focus of the fall meeting, prioritizing the items that should be added to the five-year plan, and how articles could be brought to Town Meeting in order to increase resources. Ms. Lustig and Mr. Gabrielski emphasized that the current staffing allocations illustrate the limitations of adding projects to be completed; the current budget focuses on maintenance more than additional projects. Mr. Goldstein asked about whether this Committee has the capacity to focus on the Rail Trail Extension. Committee members discussed various ways of advocating for funding for more creative expansion projects in Town. Mr. Frail recommended focusing on two to three goals per year. Committee members agreed that representatives from MPCC, the Transportation Safety Committee, and the Rail Trail Advisory Committee would meet shortly to develop joint suggestions for the current round of goal-setting by the Select Board.

Returning to discussion of the upcoming Semi-Annual Joint Meeting, Committee members discussed timing of the meeting, as well as the differing priorities of each committee that presents at this meeting.

7:15 p.m. Strategies to Improve Coordination and Timing on Design Projects

Mr. Bulger opened discussion about how to time projects. Ms. Lustig emphasized the role of the upcoming Design Guide in allocating resources and prioritizing projects. Toole Design is assisting in the development of the Design Guide.

7:26 p.m. Complete Streets Prioritization Plan Update

Mr. Gabrielski updated the MPCC on status of the funding and the projects that it can be used for coming up. Many of the projects on the current list are partially complete or they are part of capital projects that are in progress. Mr. Gabrielski asked the Committee how they would like to update the list. Ms. Lustig noted that the original list was created through a public process. The Town is currently eligible for the maximum amount for funding, which is \$500,000. Mr. Goldstein suggested removing or separating the projects that are already partially complete and those that would cost over the maximum amount of funding possible. Mr. Frail suggested evaluating known accident/injury areas in Town, such as Highland Ave at Memorial Field. Mr. Gabrielski noted that public engagement will involve increased cost. The applications for the individual projects are due May 1, 2026.

7:57 p.m. Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Frail that the Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee vote to adjourn the meeting of Monday, July 14, 2025. Second: Mr. Goldstein. Unanimously approved 7-0.

The next Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 11, 2025 at 6 p.m.