

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Winchester Fall Town Meeting 2021 - Report
October 23, 2021

The Traffic and Transportation Advisory Committee (TTAC) advises the Select Board (SB) and the Town Manager in the conduct of the interdepartmental Traffic and Transportation Program, which the Select Board directed the Town Manager to create and supervise late in 2017. TTAC itself got rolling in 2018. The structure and purposes of the Program was reaffirmed by the Select Board in early 2020. Our committee's primary areas of advocacy include:

- Traffic calming and resident safety
- Promoting multi-modal transportation
- Connecting neighborhoods and providing access to 'green and blue spaces'
- Supporting local businesses by encouraging improved access for all, including improved parking arrangements and foot traffic

TTAC has been engaged on a number of fronts, keeping pace with the town's active roadway and bridge construction schedule this summer. Our committee continues to focus on both the long and short-term needs of town residents and this summer has focused on the short term: improving conditions and working on transportation-related improvements that can be made quickly, using readily available funds or in combination with other projects. Examples include:

- Working with DPW to improve and complete fog line striping on all major town-controlled roads
- Advocating for downtown parking relief in the near and short term
- Working with individual neighborhoods on local traffic challenges
- Supporting engineering and other town-driven consulting work with Toole on planning efforts for Church and Waterfield, Wildwood and Woodside, and key corridors

Funding for transportation-related change was lacking in the most recent capital cycle. Nearly all traffic-related improvement projects were deferred in lieu of other town property priorities. Deferred funding includes projects like renovating the Wildwood 90 degree turn/intersection, Woodside speed humps and corridor renovation, corridor traffic calming elements for Highland Ave., and much needed improvements for the Mullen Field / Wright-Locke Farm area.

The one traffic-related funding request that looks promising in this cycle is the town's efforts to create a Pedestrian and Bike Master Plan. With the right steer, this vision *and* execution framework will help the town crystalize how we can make material investments in our infrastructure. The working plan should show how we can best maintain areas we've invested in, promote new ways for town residents and visitors to navigate our city safely, and create more opportunities for '15 minute community' experiences for residents.

Over the course of the coming six months, TTAC will be focused on:

1. Working with Capital, Planning and the SB and Town Staff to help create an actionable Pedestrian and Bike Master plan.

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2. Advocating for investment in town infrastructure, especially safe pathways and connections between schools
3. Working with the SB and Town Staff to streamline and fully implement the Traffic and Transportation Program.

We will continue to work with the SB and Town Staff to communicate a well-thought out and pragmatic future for Winchester transportation, wherever possible. We will also continue to advocate for every user of our town's public ways, including those who want to park conveniently and access amenities across all forms of transportation.