

Planning Board
380 Great Road
Stow, MA 01775
Tel: 978-897-5098
Fax: 978-897-2321

Town of Stow Planning Department

Memo

To: Planning Board
From: Planning Department | Valerie Oorthuys & Michael Slagle
Date: March 18, 2024
Re: Town Center Transportation Planning Stakeholder Feedback

The purpose of this memo is to outline the breadth of questions staff have brainstormed for soliciting feedback on the Town Center Streetscape Improvement project. These questions can be further categorized depending on the audience so that respondents are not overwhelmed with questions.

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- **Crescent Street** in its entirety
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- Hartley Road at Russet Lane
- Crescent Street at West Acton Road

Commented [V01]: Could also be presented as a map (such as one from BETA Group)

Feedback Requested

The Planning Department is seeking feedback from residents, businesses, visitors, and all people who travel to and through Stow Town Center. Comments, questions, and concerns shared with the Department will be brought to our engineering consultants for consideration.

Using Town Center

When providing feedback on concepts, it is important to begin by thinking about the current usage of the transportation facilities of Town Center. Providing the Planning Department with feedback on how you use Town Center will give context to your comments.

- How do you use Town Center? Are you a resident in the study area? Do you work in the study area? Do you visit businesses, places of worship or government facilities in the study area?
- What is your primary method of travel in the study area?
- Is there another method of travel that you would like to use in the study area? Is there a reason you do not use this method currently?
- What are your safety concerns in this area?
- Are there transportation features of Town Center that you feel do not need improvement?

Presented Concepts

At the February 27, 2024, public forum, our consultants at BETA Group presented several preliminary concepts. The concepts were intended to begin the thought process about what is possible. The Planning Department is seeking feedback on the concepts presented.

Town Common Shared Use Path

- What are your initial thoughts on a shared use path in the Town Common?
- Do you support the placement of the shared use path? Is there another place near/on the common that a path could be placed?
- Are there additional features that you would like considered in this area? Are there any features you would like removed from the concepts?
- Do you have any safety concerns with this concept?

Town Building Shared Use Path

- What are your initial thoughts on a shared use path along Great Road in front of Town Building?
- Do you feel pedestrians and cyclists need to be separated? Or is a shared use path sufficient?
- Do you have any safety concerns with this concept?
- The shared use path is only presented in front of Town Building to the intersection of Great Road at Gleasondale Road—should this be continued westward along Great Road? Where should the path terminate?
- A road diet (making the travel lanes for vehicles) is proposed. What are your thoughts on this?

Crescent Street (West) at Great Road Intersection Realignment

- What are your initial thoughts on realigning the intersection of Crescent Street (west) and Great Road?
- Are additional features at the intersection needed?
- Do you have any safety concerns with this concept?

Great Road at Gleasondale Road and Library Hill Road Intersection Modification

- What are your initial thoughts on the modification to this intersection?

- Do you have concern regarding the removal of the right turn lane onto Gleasondale Road from Great Road (eastward travel)?
- Do you have concern about a left turn lane from Library Hill Road onto Great Road?
- Are additional pedestrian facilities needed in this concept? Do any features need to be removed?
- Are additional cyclist facilities needed in this concept? Do any features need to be removed?
- Do you have any concerns about changing the traffic light system?

Shared Use Path Along Great Road over Minister's Pond

- What are your initial thoughts on a shared use path along Great Road over Minister's Pond?
- What is your preference: a new cantilevered path for pedestrians and cyclists, **or** a path within the existing street?
- Do you have any safety concerns about the concept?
- What features could improve this design? What features should be avoided?

Shared Use Path Along Great Road over Minister's Pond

- What are your initial thoughts on a shared use path along Great Road over Minister's Pond?
- What is your preference: a new cantilevered path for pedestrians and cyclists, **or** a path within the existing street?
- Do you have any safety concerns about the concept?
- What features could improve this design? What features should be avoided?

Miscellaneous Concepts

- What is your opinion on a pathway from Russet Lane to Pilot Grove Apartments?
- Is a shared use path from Crescent Street to the public schools needed? Should new facilities be added? Should existing facilities be enhanced?

New Ideas

The presentation by BETA Group did not include preliminary concepts for the entire study area. Additional input is needed to fill in these gaps. The following questions can guide your response.

- What areas within the study area need greater consideration? Why do these areas need more consideration? (Ex. Pedestrian safety, blind turns, speed limit).
- What tools would you like to see implemented in the concept plans? (Ex. Curb extensions, buffered bike lanes, pedestrian scaled street lighting). Where could these tools be used?
- Are there any tools that should be avoided in the concept plans?
- What other planning values do you have in this area? (Ex. Preservation of historic feel, conservation of resources, architecture).
- What additional information is needed for this planning initiative?
- What items are at the top of your wish list? If project funding and feasibility were not an issue, what would you like to see? Think big!

Additional Comments

What are we missing? The Planning Department would like any other comments regarding this project to be shared with us. Any questions, comments and concerns can be sent to:

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