

To: Matt Shuman PE, Town of Watertown

From: Phil Goff and Charlie Creagh (Alta Planning + Design)

CC: Laura Wiener and Gideon Schreiber, Town of Watertown

Date: March 16, 2018

Re: Complete Streets Prioritization Plan project table

Draft Project List at the Feb. 28 Public Meeting

This memorandum highlights the alterations made to the draft prioritized list of Complete Streets recommendations for the Town of Watertown, presented at the second public meeting held on February 28. This represents one more step towards submitting a townwide Complete Streets Prioritization Plan to MassDOT. The goal is to submit a plan containing a minimum of 15 projects to MassDOT that are eligible for Tier 3 funding. The Town could then apply for a maximum of \$400,000 in competitive grant funding per year. MassDOT is currently in year three of five for the appropriations.

Over 100 potential projects were identified by residents and staff either at the first public meeting held on December 14, 2017, at stakeholder meetings, or through the web survey set up for the project. At the February 28th meeting, the Alta team highlighted the methodology used to narrow down this broader list into a more-manageable list for further evaluation. Town staff explained that many of the projects related to the installation of granite curbs and concrete sidewalks on particular streets. The Town currently has a program to install curb and sidewalks as part of its annual road reconstruction program, which is funded by the Town Council. These types of projects were not prioritized further unless the particular street was part of a school walking route. Many other requests were location-specific or deemed to be low cost "maintenance" type items that could be incorporated into the Town's annual sidewalk-repair and line-striping programs, and therefore were not prioritized further. The Town intends to consider the original project list as it develops its annual repair and reconstruction programs so that many of these requests can be implemented outside of the Complete Streets program. Requests related to parking enforcement or miscellaneous signage would not be eligible for funding as part of the MassDOT program and were also not prioritized further.

Using this process, the original list was reduced to 33 projects which were then scored and ranked based on several evaluation criteria developed by the Town. The criteria included: 1) level of safety improvement provided, 2) connectivity to other facilities, 3) proximity to schools, 4) potential to attract a variety of users, and 5) impact to vehicular operations. Additional consideration was given to projects along transit corridors. The Town then established "high ranking" projects, using a threshold score of 18 points (out of a maximum of 23), resulting in 19 "high ranking" projects.

At the public meeting, Alta highlighted the 19 high-ranking projects. Much of the feedback focused on the 19 projects that scored well, and on others that failed to make the cut. There were comments related to the scoring process and the detailed scores. The team indicated that there was some subjectivity to the scoring and that the scores should be considered relative, rather than absolute. Other concerns related to the inclusion of projects that are already scheduled for funding or projects that are larger corridor projects rather than smaller, focused projects. There was an interest in including projects that had not previously been identified or programmed by the Town on the list as well.

After the meeting, the Town subsequently posted the list of 33 potential projects, along with the original list of 133 project ideas onto the Watertown Department of Public Works web page (<http://www.watertowndpw.org/Pages/construction/CompleteStreetsIndex>). This list has been available for public viewing since March 2 (along with a map of the project locations and a PDF copy of the Powerpoint presentation made by Alta at the 2/28/18 meeting).

Changes to the Priority Project List Since the Feb. 28 Public Meeting

Based on the feedback from the February 28 meeting, the Town made some revisions to the prioritization plan. While the Town did not change the scoring or ranking of the projects, in some instances, additional project descriptions were added to provide the level of detail required by MassDOT.

To address the concerns related to prioritizing projects that already have potential funding sources, the Town changed the threshold for what constitutes a high-ranking project. The revised list includes those that have scored 16 or more, rather than 18 or more. This alteration added four additional projects to the draft prioritization plan. These projects are smaller in scope than some of the other corridor projects on the list and also add additional diversity to the types of projects on the draft list.

Additionally, the recommended project on Watertown Street was split into two projects to reflect the fact that one of the three intersections recommended for pedestrian safety improvements has already been designed and is therefore “shovel ready”. The relocated and improved crosswalk and new ADA-accessible ramps at Theurer Park could easily be submitted to MassDOT for 2018 Complete Streets Tier 3 funding.

The attached table includes the updated list of 24 potential projects recommended for inclusion in the Town’s Complete Streets Prioritization Plan that will be submitted to MassDOT. Note that annual grant requests can only include a maximum of five projects that do not exceed \$400,000 combined (funding for larger projects may come from supplemental sources, however). The maximum five-year program is very competitive, so there is no guarantee that projects submitted for Tier 3 funding will be funded. Nevertheless, this list, and the larger one from which it derives, can be used for future planning purposes by the Town.

Watertown Complete Streets Prioritization Plan Project List | March 15, 2018 | Final Draft

Project #	Project Type	Street Name	Extents	Project Description	Source	Evaluation Score: (Max: 23)	High Scoring Projects: (Score >=16)	\$\$
1	Corridor Wide Improvements	Arsenal St.	Louise Street to Greenough Blvd.	Implement recommendations of Arsenal Street corridor study. Include: bike lanes, gateway improvements, and transit improvements.	Town	23	X	
2	Crossing Improvements	Watertown Sq.	Entire limits.	Reduce crossing distance, improve bus stop connections, add bike facilities where necessary, traffic lane delineation and wayfinding signage.	Town	22	X	
3	Traffic Calming	Mt Auburn St.	Patten St to Cambridge line.	Provide road diet where warranted, enhanced/improved bicycle accommodations, left turn lanes at selected intersections, ADA compliant bus stops and intersections including signal equipment, curb extensions at selected locations to shorten crossing distances for pedestrians with enhanced signage, wider sidewalks, additional green spaces along the road and stormwater management infrastructure.	Town	21	X	\$14.2M (per TIP)
4	Corridor Wide Improvements	N Beacon St.	From Charles River Rd to Main St.	Improvements include: 1) At Louise St / Paul St: Construct curb extensions to reduce crossing distance, stripe high visibility crosswalk and install activated flashing beacons; 2) At Irving St: Extend westbound bike lane through intersection via green skip lane striping. 3) At Alfred Rd, N Beacon Ct, Ladd St, Royal St, Paul St, Palmer St, Bay St, and at each commercial driveway: Extend existing bike lane east-bound across intersections using dashed green skip-lane striping.	Online Survey	21	X	
5	Corridor Wide Improvements	Common Street corridor	Common St: Mt Auburn to Orchard St. Columbia St: Common St to Robbins Rd. Spring St: Common St to Marion Rd.	Install roundabout at Orchard Street, Church Street and Common Street intersection. Provide bike lanes and shared use markings. Provide signalized intersection at Spring Street and Common Street. Consolidate crosswalks. Provide raised table at Columbia Road and Russell Ave. intersection at high school entrance. Provide 5' minimum width sidewalks along Common Street. Install contra-flow bike lane on Marshall Street.	Town	21	X	\$1.9M WorldTech
6	Shared-Use Path	Watertown Community Path	Arsenal St at Irving St to Taylor St. to Mt. Auburn. Taylor Street: entire extent.	Implement recommendations of Community Path Study; coordinate with Watertown Square improvements.	Town	21	X	
7	Crossing Improvements	Watertown St.	At Theurer Park	Relocate Watertown Street crosswalk between Theurer Park and Pond Street to lie at the east side of Theurer Park; include ADA-compliant pedestrian curb ramps, curb extension on the north side and a flush, textured pedestrian refuge island.	Town	21	X	
8	Corridor Wide Improvements	Main St.	Bacon St to Church St.	Reconstruct intersection of Main St. and Waverley Ave./Myrtle Street including ADA compliant accessible ramps and signal equipment. Extend bike lanes from current terminus to Thaxter Street. Remove and replace sidewalks and install ADA compliant accessible ramps at each cross street. Consolidate crosswalks between Whites Ave. and Chestnut Street and provide activated flashing beacons. Provide ADA compliant bus stops. Provide curb extensions at side streets.	Town	20	X	\$1.8M WorldTech + Watertown
9	Safe Pedestrian Access to School	Riverside St & Irving St.	Riverside St from the Perkins School to Irving St and Irving St from Riverside St to N Beacon St.	Install granite curbing, remove and replace sidewalks. Provide ADA compliant accessible ramps at intersections. Add street trees.	Town	20	X	
10	Crossing Improvements	Church St.	At Marion Rd.	Build two curb extension that help to "T-in" the two acute intersections and relocate the crosswalk to lie in the center of the two newly-offset intersections.	Town	19	X	

11	Safe Pedestrian Access to Schools	Highland Ave.	Entire extents (Longfellow Rd to Lexington St)	Install granite curbing, remove and replace sidewalks. Provide ADA compliant accessible ramps at intersections. Install additional advance crosswalk warning signage at Copeland Street. Add street trees.	Online Survey	19	X	
12	Crossing Improvements	Warren St.	At existing Cuniff School entrance mid-block crossing.	Install raised crosswalk with activated flashing beacon at existing crosswalk to Cuniff School main entrance opposite 247 Warren St.	Town	19	X	
13	Shared-Use Path	Watertown Community Path	Winter to Whites Ave., through Saltonstall Park	Widen existing 5' walkway to create a 10' wide shared-use path.	Town	19	X	
14	Shared-Use Path	Watertown Community Path	In Municipal Parking Lot: From Baptist Walk to Winter St @ Saltonstall Park. (Roughly 1,250 feet.)	1) Remove existing diagonal parking striping, 2) Re-orient and stripe diagonal parking in opposite direction, 3) Stripe the extension of the Watertown Community Path along the edge of the parking lot, infilled with green, 3) At Spring St, Church St, and John Sonny Whooley Way, stripe crosswalks for path users.	Town	19	X	
15	Crossing Improvements	Watertown Community Path: Main St. Crossing	From parking lot at Main/Bacon St to Waverley, off road past Moxley Park.	Install crosswalk across Main, and connect to town-owned easement in parking lot on south side of Halfway Café. Construct 10' wide asphalt shared use path from Main St to Waverley Ave at Moxley Field.	Town	19	X	
16	Crossing Improvements	Watertown Community Path: Whites Ave. Crossing	At Watertown Community Path crossing.	Install raised crosswalk and activated flashing beacons at the Community Path crossing of Whites Street	Town	19	X	
17	Corridor Wide Improvements	Waverley Ave.	From Belmont Street to Orchard Street	Install granite curbing, remove and replace sidewalks. Provide ADA compliant accessible ramps at intersections. Provide curb extensions at intersections for traffic calming. Add bicycle shared lane markings. Add street trees.	Town	19	X	
18	Safe Pedestrian Access to Schools	Summer St.	Waverly Ave to Mt. Auburn St.	Install granite curbing, remove and replace sidewalks. Provide ADA compliant accessible ramps at intersections. Provide a raised table/crosswalk at Whites Ave. Add street trees.	Consultant	18	X	
19	Crossing Improvements	Watertown St.	See box to right.	Improvements include the installation of curb extensions and activated flashing beacons at the existing crosswalks between Morse St and Belknap Ter, and at 95 Watertown St (at Casey Park). Stripe shared lane markings from California St to the town line.	Public Meeting 1	18	X	
20	Safe Pedestrian Access to School	Forest St. + Springfield St.	Forest St: Summer St to Springfield St. Springfield St: Forest St to Fitchburg St.	Remove asphalt sidewalk and replace with concrete sidewalk. Install curbs as needed. Install ADA-compliant pedestrian curb ramps at each cross street.	Online Survey	18	X	
21	Crossing Improvements	California St.	At Fifth Ave.	Install activated flashing beacons across California St at existing crosswalk.	Public Meeting 1	17	X	
22	Safe Pedestrian Access to School	Russell Ave. + Columbia St.	Russell Ave: From Mount Auburn St to Columbia St. On Columbia St: From Russell Ave to Robbins St.	Remove asphalt sidewalk and replace with concrete sidewalk. Install curbs as necessary. Install ADA-compliant pedestrian curb ramps at Columbia St.	Town	17	X	
23	Traffic Calming	Bigelow Ave.	Entire extents, from Mt Auburn St to Nichols Ave.	Install curb extensions and stripe new high visibility crosswalk at Greek Orthodox Church at Merrifield Ave. Stripe bike lanes and enhanced shared lane markings where space does not allow for bike lanes.	Town	16	X	
24	Shared-Use Path	Stanley Ave.	Entire extents, and through to Pleasant St.	Establish formal path connection: Stripe bike lanes OR enhanced shared lane markings along Stanley Ave. At existing sidewalk terminus near JCD School, stripe a pedestrian lane (due to existing bio-swale / rain water retention area: sidewalk infeasible) that directs users to existing asphalt shared use path. At Pleasant St: (opposite Paramount Pl) Remove metal barrier gates, install bollards, stripe high visibility crosswalk, install activated flashing beacons.	Consultant	16	X	