



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING PROPOSED MAIN STREET TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS

**Thursday, November 29, 2018, 7pm
Wenham Town Hall
138 Main Street, Selectmen's Room**

You are invited to attend a public meeting being held by the Town of Wenham to discuss the progress of proposed roadway and intersection improvements for Route 1A at Cherry Street, Monument Street, and Arbor Street in Wenham. Details of this potential project are outlined below. Supporting materials can be accessed on the Town's website at wenhamma.gov/mainstreettraffic. Any questions about the public meeting may be directed to the Town Administrator's Office at 978-468-5520 x. 2 or via email to nroebuck@wenhamma.gov.

When: Thursday, November 29, 2018, 7:00 PM

Where: Wenham Town Hall, Selectmen's Room, 138 Main Street, Wenham, MA

Purpose

The Town of Wenham is seeking to improve the roadway and intersections on Route 1A at Cherry Street, Monument Street, and Arbor Street. Town and state officials are in agreement regarding the need to make improvements to this corridor. Since Route 1A is a state road, MassDOT will be the project lead but the Town has been and will continue to be actively involved in the design and decision making processes. In order to secure state and/or federal funding for project design and construction, the Town is required to actively solicit feedback from all relevant local stakeholders. This meeting is being held to inform our residents and downtown businesses about the purpose, goals, needs, and design parameters of the project. All input provided at this meeting will be reviewed and considered as part of this public outreach process.

Proposal

The Town of Wenham, in coordination with MassDOT, is planning improvements to Route 1A where it intersects Cherry Street, Monument Street, and Arbor Street which will include a redesign of the existing roadway by installing more/better signage, designated turning lanes at key locations, and up to two (2) fully signalized intersections. This project will also include improvements to the existing sidewalks, the installation of new sidewalks, and the redesign/relocation of existing pedestrian crosswalks.

History

- Summer 2016: Town of Wenham officials contacted MassDOT District 4 requesting to reinstate a project first proposed in 2008 to install a traffic light at one of the key intersections in the downtown corridor on Main Street in an attempt to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety and reduce motor vehicle accidents.
- Winter 2016-17: MassDOT collected and analyzed traffic volume data at all three intersections: Route 1A/Cherry Street; Route 1A/Monument Street; and Route 1A/Arbor Street. The analysis determined that all three locations met traffic volume warrants for the installation of traffic signals.
- In spite of these preliminary findings, MassDOT determined that it was unlikely that a long-term improvement project would be approved by MassDOT absent more compelling information, analysis, and design alternatives. At MassDOT's suggestion, the Town consulted with its regional planning agency, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), and with the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS), part of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), to determine how to undertake a more comprehensive study.
- Summer 2017: Town of Wenham officials contacted CTPS and, following a selection process based on safety conditions, congested conditions, multimodal significance, regional significance, regional equity, and implementation, the Route 1A corridor from Cherry Street to Arbor Street was approved for a more comprehensive study.
- Winter/Spring 2018: CTPS met with Town officials to get input and feedback on draft findings and recommendations before finalizing report.
- September 2018: CTPS completed their study. Their report summarizes the potential improvement strategies for the Wenham downtown corridor along these Route 1A intersections and includes an in-depth analysis of each option.
- October 2018: With their consultant, Bayside Engineering, Town officials again met with MassDOT officials to discuss the approval process for this project. Although this proposed project has been discussed at length in several Selectmen's meetings, MassDOT asked for the Town to host this public forum to review the study alternatives and recommended project scope. MassDOT needs to hear back from the Town that this project is supported at the local level to initiate an application through the Project Review Committee, the next step in securing funding for design and construction.

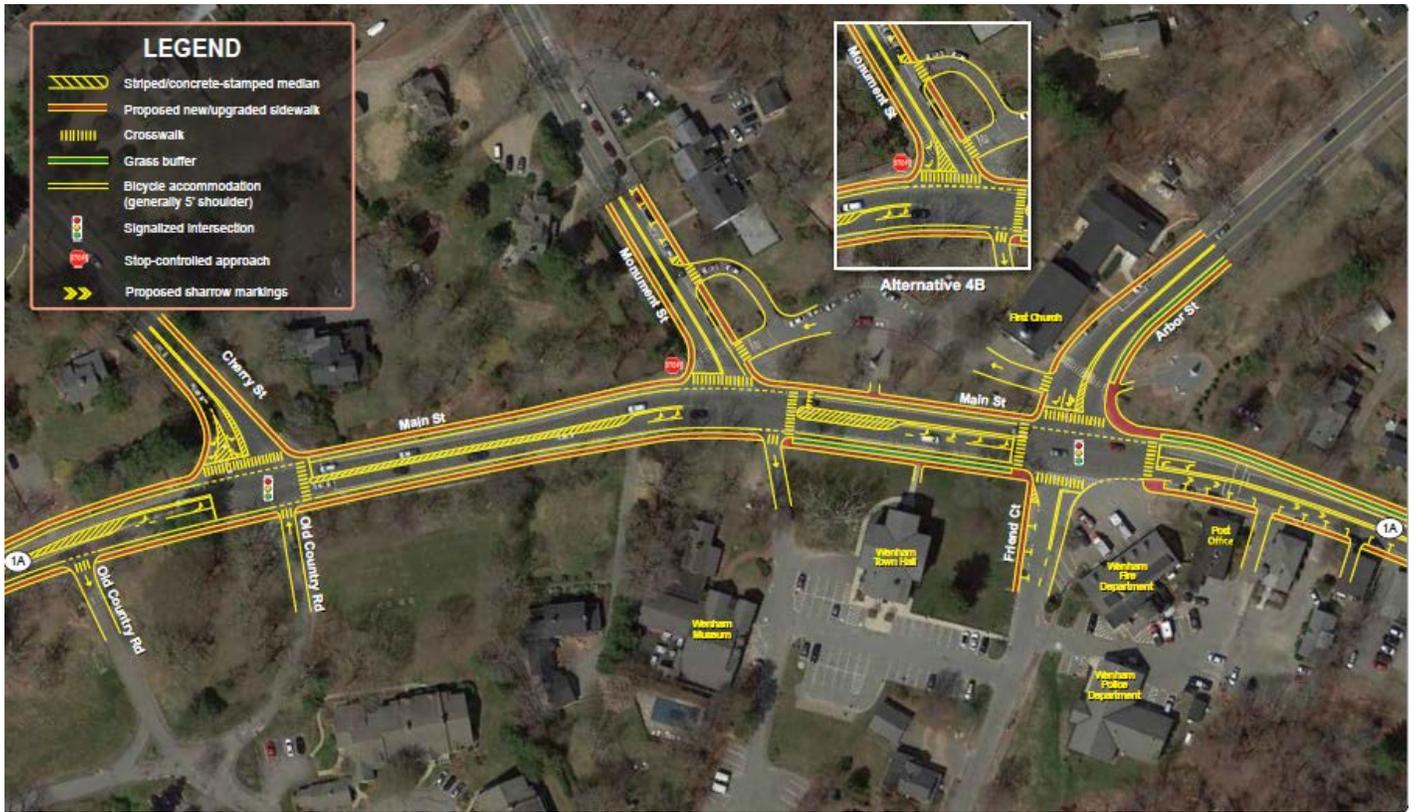
Objectives

- Redesign the existing roadway to provide safer and more efficient traffic operations, thereby alleviating peak hour traffic congestion - in particular, the long queues and delays currently experienced by side street traffic – and reducing vehicular accidents.
- Improve safety and mobility for pedestrians by upgrading the existing infrastructure. New ADA accessible sidewalks and wheelchairs ramps will be constructed for improved access to the downtown area attractions such as the Wenham Museum, the Wenham Tea House, the First Church, the Maples, the Post Office, and businesses in the downtown.
- Design safer and improved amenities for cyclists within the study area such as standard width bike lanes, replacing the existing variable width paved shoulder.
- Improve the ability of emergency vehicles to safely travel through the downtown corridor.

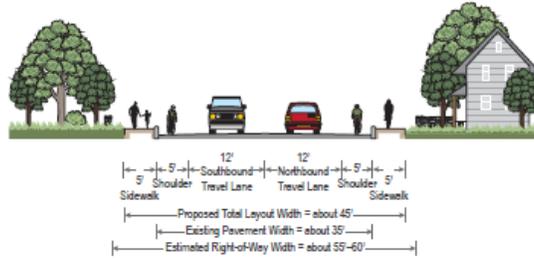
Timeline & Next Steps

- Funding: Eligibility for several different state and federal programs has yet to be determined. The timing of project design and construction is very dependent on the eventual funding source(s) and may take up to six (6) years.
- Design Process: Once funding is secured, Bayside Engineering will work with Town and MassDOT officials to prepare plans with relevant design elements and cost estimates in accordance with state design guidelines. All submittals will be presented to the Town and MassDOT for review and comment at the 25%, 75% and the 100% design stages and shall include: construction plans, alignment and grading plans, traffic signal controller plans (if warranted), signing and striping plans, typical roadway sections, details for sidewalk, curb installation, and erosion control. Also included will be construction sequencing plans and traffic management plans for safety during construction. All work associated with the project will be prepared in accordance with MassDOT design requirements, engineering criteria, and directives. The Town plans to hold additional public meetings to solicit community input as we proceed through the design process with MassDOT.
- Right of Way: A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. The right-of-way varies between 50 and 55 feet in this area. Sufficient right-of-way to accommodate the proposed improvements will need to be field verified or obtained as required to incorporate the proposed improvements into the project design. Permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Wenham may be responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands and will contact individual property owners as necessary as we proceed through the design process.

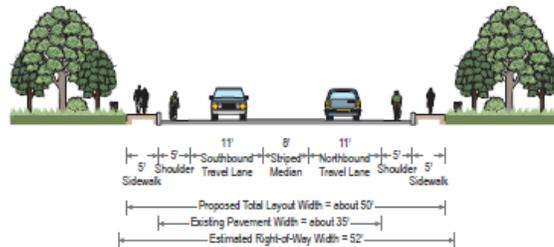
Proposed Route 1A Roadway and Intersection Improvements



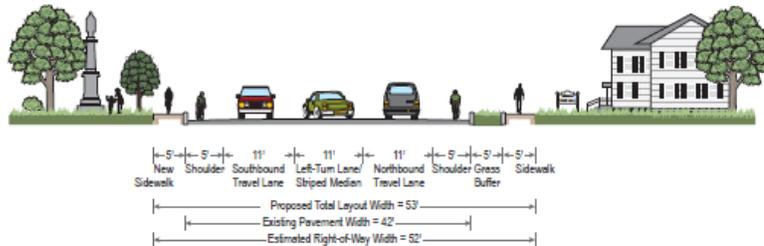
Proposed Route 1A cross-section in the vicinity



Proposed Route 1A cross-section between Cherry Street and Monument Street



Proposed Route 1A cross-section with a left-turn lane or striped median



Public Comment Welcomed

Written comments regarding the proposed project are to be submitted by email to Peter Lombardi, Town Administrator, at plombardi@wenhamma.gov. Hard copy submissions will also be accepted at the meeting. All such comments must be received by December 10.