



## Meeting summary for Hanover Bike Walk (03/10/2025)

ATTENDEES: Jennie Chamberlain (Chair), Evan Gerson (Vice Chair), Rob Houseman (Town Manager), Hugh Mellert, Rai-Ching Yu, Bill Young, Lara Acker, Kim Estes (guest), Tom O'Donnell (guest, Dartmouth Safety & Security), Chief Jim Martin (Hanover Police), Nicolás Macri (guest)

### Quick recap

The Hanover Bike Walk committee discussed various ongoing projects and initiatives related to improving pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in the town. They reviewed plans for enhancing the West Wheelock Corridor and South Main Street using a tax increment finance district, as well as potential zoning amendments to allow for small-scale multi-family infill housing. The committee also examined recent crash data, winter maintenance challenges, and upcoming events to promote biking and walking in the community.

### Next steps

- Jennie to resend the correct date for the Earth Day tabling event.
- Committee members to review and provide feedback on the town report draft.
- Committee members to consider organizing a walk audit using the simplified forms - one for sidewalks/along a road, and one for crossings.
- Bill to send out more information about the bike rodeo/skills clinic on May 4th and look for volunteers.
- Committee to think about activities for Curb Your Car Day on May 16th.
- Rob to find out the name of the Eagle Scout who made the bus stop bench to send a thank you.
- Committee members to accumulate examples of best practices for mixed-use paths and shared streets.
- Committee to draft a letter supporting the TIF proposal for the next meeting.



- Jennie to add Tom to the committee's mailing list.
- Evan to check the updated Dartmouth Bikes website and provide feedback on any missing links.

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## Summary

### Committee Updates

The committee discusses recent updates and ongoing projects. They review the status of a potential footpath near Etna village, with Hugh reporting on his contact with a resident about creating a path across private property. The complete streets policy update was passed by the Select Board. Chief Martin, newly promoted, plans to continue liaising with the Hanover Bike Walk committee. The committee also discusses an upcoming e-bike and e-scooter engagement initiative by the college, though details are still unclear. They mention a student group's presentation on designing a more accessible West Wheelock Street and consider inviting them to present their findings to the committee. The town manager provides updates on new hires, including a Planning Director and Sustainability Coordinator. The committee also discusses participating in upcoming Earth Day events. Rai-Ching updates the committee that Dartmouth Safety and Security has decided to use Project 529 for Bicycle registrations. The meeting concludes with a proposal to hear more about the tax increment finance district and its potential impact.



## West Wheelock Corridor and South Main Street Improvements

The board discusses plans for improvements to the West Wheelock Corridor and South Main Street using a tax increment finance (TIF) district.

The proposed changes include adding a multi-use path, bike lanes, and improved sidewalks on West Wheelock Street, as well as redesigning South Main Street with parallel parking, bike lanes, and a tree buffer. The plans aim to accommodate various users (pedestrians, cyclists, drivers) while working within existing right-of-way constraints. The board reviews cross-sections of the proposed changes and discusses potential challenges, such as managing different user groups on shared paths. They also consider looking at best practices from other locations to inform the design process.

The Board discusses the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) proposal for downtown improvements. The project aims to enhance pedestrian access and safety while potentially reducing parking spaces.

The first step involves establishing the TIF district and baseline assessed value at the upcoming town meeting, with no immediate financial commitment. A second vote at a subsequent town meeting would approve designs and funding. The Committee considers drafting a letter of support for the TIF concept to be reviewed at their next meeting.



## **Hanover Bike Lane Safety Review**

The committee reviews recent bike and pedestrian crash data in Hanover, discussing hotspots like Crosby and East Wheelock, Wentworth and North Main, and North Main and Wheelock. They also examine a map of potential bike lane plowing routes and discuss winter maintenance challenges, and discuss ice buildup on sidewalks and roads. Members suggest ways to report problem areas to the town and college. The group notes the popularity of covered bike racks and discusses the results of a recent walk audit of certain intersections and sidewalks.

## **New Walk Audit Forms and Initiatives**

The board discusses new simplified forms for street and intersection assessments, which members can test in their neighborhoods. They also review updates on various initiatives, including a bike registration project with SMS and Hanover police, an upcoming bike skills clinic for children, and Bike to School Day on May 7th. The board mentions a new bench at a bus stop made by an Eagle Scout and discusses fundraising progress for the WaHG Trail (West Lebanon and Hanover Greenway Trail). They also review a proposed zoning amendment to allow for small-scale multi-family housing in Hanover, which aligns with the town's Master Plan and goals for creating walkable neighborhoods. The board encourages attendance at upcoming Planning Board meetings on March 18th and April 1st to discuss this amendment.