

Hanover Bike Walk 8.11.2025 Meeting summary

Attendees: Jennie Chamberlain (chair), Chief Martin (HPD), Rai-Ching Yu (Dartmouth Bikes), Evan Gerson (vice chair), David Anderson, Hugh Mellert, Scot Drysdale, Aaron McKenna, Lara Acker, Kaitlin Clark (Access Dartmouth), Ryan Williams (Access Dartmouth), Robert Houseman (Town Manager), Doug Deatt, Bill Young

Quick recap

The committee reviewed various transportation infrastructure projects and discussed promoting accessibility through apps, maps, and a "Week Without Driving" campaign. They addressed ongoing paving and bike lane improvements, including specific concerns about lane widths and intersection redesigns, while also reviewing updates on shared streets plans and complete streets guidelines. The committee discussed environmental issues at Ledyard Park, while also reviewing the status of various transportation projects.

Next steps

- Lara to ask Hanover High School and superintendent about promoting a "Week Without Driving" challenge among departments
- Jennie to send updated Complete Streets guidelines to Select Board
- Jennie to follow up with Caroline about scheduling September Shared Streets Plan outreach and engagement session
- Committee is now meeting 4:30-5:30 PM, 2nd Monday of every month
- Board to seek additional meeting attendees
- Doug to take photos of Route 120 bike lane conditions to send to Peter Kulbacki and NHDOT
- Downtown Business Group taking the lead on fundraising for Ledyard Park (Yuri will create regarding Ledyard Park posters)
- Committee to continue work on developing comprehensive multimodal network measurement metrics

Summary

Bikelane Maintenance and Data Review

The committee discussed pipeline measurements and debris issues, noting that some pipelines were swept but had previously contained gravel. They reviewed the Hanover Bike Walk Google Drive, including an August meeting folder where photos and documents could be shared. The group also discussed a city ratings methodology that uses open streets data, speed limits, and Google Maps cameras to calculate scores, and they touched on launching a Roll Mobility campaign which now has a space on their Hanover Bike Walk website.

Trail Planning and Community Engagement

The board discussed promoting accessibility through an app and a map, considering forming a subcommittee for data collection. They reviewed the July minutes, amending them to include Bill wanting to have a meeting about e-mobility and safety with Dartmouth Security and police. The committee shared news about a WaHG trail open house engagement event on August 27th at Sachem Fields, led by Stantec consultants, to gather community input on the trail's route and usage. They also discussed the connection between Hanover and Lebanon, highlighting missing links in the trail system and the need for further community input.

Week Without Driving Campaign Launch

The committee discussed promoting a "Week Without Driving" campaign in late September, encouraging elected officials and planners to pledge not to drive for a week to experience alternative transportation methods. They plan to send a letter to the Select Board, considering state representatives, with Lara offering to approach the Hanover schools about participating in a departmental challenge. The group also considered reaching out to Dartmouth faculty organizations and the Irving Institute, though they decided to start with the Select Board before expanding further.

Paving Projects and Bike Lanes

The committee discussed ongoing paving projects, focusing on intersections and bike lanes. They addressed concerns about the College Street contraflow lane and its interaction with other streets, with Rob agreeing to follow up with Pete about potential bike lane striping and signage. The group also discussed the resurfacing of various roads, including Sargeant Street, Maple, and South Main Street, with plans to add bike lanes and adjust road markings where necessary.

Lebanon Street Bike Infrastructure Plan

They discussed the installation of high-density plastic form to create shared bike lanes marked with imprinted sharrows, and intersection redesigns at Crosby and E Wheelock funded by the college subject to the Shared Streets Vision Plan developed by the consultants at Toole Design. They addressed the broader vision for Lebanon Street, which involves losing 37 parking spaces, and acknowledged this as an incremental step toward expanding bike infrastructure. The group highlighted the importance of Lebanon Street along the high school, prioritized from high numbers of pedestrian and bicyclist crashes along this stretch, as well as the need for thoughtful attention to intersections by the Coop at Park and at S. Main for both pedestrians and bicyclists. The discussion also covered the scheduling and budgeting of road painting projects, with emphasis on prioritizing crosswalks for safety and coordinating with college graduation schedules.

Transportation Projects

The advisory committee discussed updates on various transportation projects, including the shared streets plan, which is expected to have an outreach session in the fall. They reviewed the status of the Dunster / Wyatt Crosswalk, along with catchbasin design project, which is in the design phase with the state's requirements being addressed.

Ledyard Park Update

The committee also addressed environmental issues at Ledyard Park, where an underground oil tank was discovered, and discussed updates on the complete streets guidelines and progress measurement methods. Lastly, they touched on the permitting process for the Global East project and considered adjusting their meeting time and seeking additional members.

Route 120 Bike Lane Review

The committee discussed the narrow southbound bike lane on Route 120 near Greensboro Road, which measures about 3 feet and continues to be narrow until the Medical Center exit. They considered sending a letter to Hampshire DOT requesting a lane width adjustment, but decided to first consult with Peter Kulbacki, who has been working on this issue for 10 years. The committee agreed to gather more information about lane width standards and previous studies of this section before taking any action.