

MEMORANDUM

To: Natick Select Board; Natick Finance Committee
From: Josh Ostroff, Chair, Transportation Advisory Committee
Date: August 28, 2020
Re: Complete Streets Prioritization Plan

cc: Melissa Malone, Town Administrator; Jamie Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator;
Jeremy Marsette, Director of Public Works; James Freas, Director of Community and
Economic Development

At its meeting of August 27, 2020, the Transportation Advisory Committee voted to support a Town Meeting capital request of \$37,400 to fund an updated Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.

For the first several years since the Town adopted a Complete Streets policy, the Town has submitted MassDOT Complete Streets grant applications based on a prioritization plan that was funded through a state grant in 2016. That plan is now somewhat dated; its costs do not reflect current project bids; and the higher priority projects have been submitted, while conditions have changed in Natick.

The benefits of an updated plan are as follow.

1. We stand to leverage a multiple of the cost of this plan; the Town can submit grant requests for up to \$400,000, as long as previous grant-funded projects have been completed.
2. A new planning process will provide Town residents, staff, committees, and other stakeholders with the opportunity to submit project ideas and comments.
3. The Town has many projects (transportation and development) planned or underway that have changed conditions since the 2016 plan, so an update will be more actionable.
4. The costs in the 2016 plan are not generally reflective of the current market, and we have had recent experience where grant submissions were not reflective of actual project costs. A new prioritization plan will provide better cost estimates.
5. This will extend the value of other investments. Projects funded by Complete Streets are complementary of other transportation improvements, which may be funded through Chapter 90 (state funding), the MPO (state and federal funding); the MBTA (state funding), or the Town itself.

From the Director of Public Works, the Committee is advised that we could tap Chapter 90 to fund this plan, however, that would divert funds that are urgently needed for roadway improvement projects.

Thank you for your consideration.