

Town of Duxbury, Massachusetts – Annual Town Meeting, March 12, 2022

ARTICLE 17 – DESIGN AND SURVEY TO ESTABLISH EXISTING CONDITIONS AND LAYOUT OF WASHINGTON STREET FOR FUTURE SIDEWALKS

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to fund the costs of a survey to establish existing conditions and layout of Washington Street, and to fund the design and engineering of a sidewalk and associated pedestrian improvements, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager and with the recommendation of the Sidewalk and Bike Path Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Sidewalk and Bike Path Committee

Explanation: The Town of Duxbury has embarked on a Complete Streets Program aimed at providing safe and accessible options for all travel modes – walking, biking, transit, and vehicles - for people of all ages and abilities. The planning initiative is supported by the Complete Streets Policy, which was adopted by the Board of Selectmen, January 11th, 2021. The Complete Streets Program is a Mass DOT funded initiative to help municipalities make infrastructure improvements on municipally owned roadways to better serve all users. The Town of Duxbury has just completed a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, based on input from town residents, that ranked viable projects and clearly identified sidewalks on Washington Street as an area of priority.

Washington Street has been used and maintained as a traveled way by written deed for hundreds of years, similar to many other old roads in existence from colonial times. To qualify for this state funding, the physical limits of the existing layout described in the deed need to be established on the ground and compared with the traveled way. With this information, the Town can then determine if the layout, and/or way, needs to be widened, straightened, or otherwise adjusted in order to design and construct sidewalks along Washington Street where the public deems it best appropriate, consistent with the Complete Streets Plan. The survey will accomplish information-gathering for the future decision making described herein.

The scope of work for the survey includes the following:

- Surveying Washington Street to document by plan the existing conditions in and along the publicly used and maintained traveled way – edge of pavement, stone walls, utilities, sidewalk, curb cuts, crosswalks, driveways, landscaped parking areas, drainage structures, hydrants, mailboxes, and other structures; and including obstacles on either side of the traveled way so that a layout can be established;
- Surveying the record deeded written layout of Washington Street; placing markers to locate the actual layout, and find existing bounds if they can be located; and
- Locate all of the above on a plan which will include abutting parcel information, parcel ID numbers, and record owner information.

Further, in order to apply for funding from the Complete Streets Program or other available programs, design engineering funds for a sidewalk and associated pedestrian improvements along Washington Street in appropriate locations is included in the request. The Complete Streets Program, for example, requires no local match, and can be used to construct these improvements, in phases, once the designs are available, through a series of phased competitive grant awards, with the goal of making the street safer for everyone.