



Town of New London
Public Works Department

375 Main Street
New London, NH 03257



MEMORANDUM

TO: Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
FROM: Sam Clarke, Public Works Director
RE: Sidewalk and Crosswalk Improvement Plan
DATE: October 15, 2024

Dear Committee Members,

Public Works has recently reevaluated the town's sidewalks, crosswalks, and overall mobility with your committee's valuable input. As a result, we have developed a comprehensive plan of action to address immediate concerns and long-term improvements. The goal of this plan is to enhance safety, accessibility, and ADA compliance, ensuring our community remains both functional and accessible.

Immediate Action Items

To address pressing safety issues, we will undertake the following measures:

1. **Crosswalk Repainting:** All crosswalks will be repainted, we will apply reflective beading on all crosswalks to further improve safety, especially during low-light conditions.
2. **Seasonal Signage:** We will replace and refresh seasonal crosswalk signage to increase driver awareness and pedestrian safety.
3. **Sidewalk Maintenance:**
 - **Truncated Dome Replacements:** Damaged or worn truncated domes will be replaced to ensure ADA compliance and safety.
 - **Resealing:** Sections of sidewalk that remain in good condition will be resealed to extend their lifespan.
 - **Crack Sealing and Patching:** Areas in need of interim repairs will be addressed through crack sealing and patching.

These actions are aimed at improving both pedestrian mobility and safety, while ensuring that residents and visitors of all abilities can navigate our sidewalks comfortably and confidently.

Long-Term Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Our long-term approach focuses on upgrading the entire Main Street corridor over the next 6 to 7 years, with the following projects scheduled:

- **FY 2025:** *711 Main Street to Squires Lane; 1,500 feet*
 - Removal of existing pavement
 - Installation of new subgrade material
 - New pavement
 - ADA-compliant tip-downs

- **FY 2026:** *Squires Lane to Seamans Road; 1,400 feet*
 - New curbing where applicable
 - New base gravel
 - New pavement
 - ADA-compliant tip-downs

- **FY 2027:** *Seamans Road to Pleasant Street; 1,300 feet*
 - New curbing
 - New base gravel
 - New pavement
 - ADA-compliant tip-downs

- **FY 2028:** *Pleasant Street to Cougar Court; 1,400 feet*
 - New curbing
 - New base gravel
 - New pavement
 - ADA-compliant tip-downs

- **FY 2029:** *Cougar Court to Newport Road; 1,900 feet*
 - New curbing
 - New base gravel
 - New pavement
 - ADA-compliant tip-downs

- **FY 2030:** *Parkside Road to South Pleasant Street; 1,400 feet*
 - Potential sidewalk addition from Parkside Road to Hayes Road to connect to the commercial district
 - New curbing
 - New base gravel
 - New pavement
 - ADA-compliant tip-downs

- **FY 2031:** *South Pleasant Street to Seamans Road; 1,100 feet*
 - New base gravel
 - New curbing
 - New pavement
 - ADA-compliant tip-downs

Project Strategy and Considerations

To keep these projects financially attainable, we will employ a mix of contracted and in-house work. After careful evaluation, Public Works has decided to use asphalt pavement for all sidewalk replacements, instead of materials like cobblestone, brick, stamped concrete, or standard concrete. Here's why:

- **Accessibility:** Cobblestone, brick, or stamped concrete, while aesthetically pleasing, can pose significant challenges for individuals with disabilities. These materials create uneven surfaces that are difficult to navigate for those using wheelchairs, canes, or walkers. The use of asphalt ensures smooth, ADA-compliant pathways.
- **Cost:** Asphalt is the most cost-effective option. Concrete, for example, costs nearly three times as much as asphalt and poses issues with frost heaving, making it less desirable for our climate and long-term maintenance goals.
- **Maintenance:** While alternative materials may offer a more traditional look, they require much more effort and expense to maintain. Asphalt allows us to balance beauty, function, and longevity without compromising accessibility.

In summary, these sidewalk improvements aim to create a safe, accessible, and attractive environment for all residents and visitors of New London. We believe this plan is the best course of action to address the town's needs while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Thank you for your ongoing support and contributions to improving the mobility and safety of our community.

Sincerely,

Sam Clarke

Sam Clarke
Director of Public Works