

MEMO  
Town of New London  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
October 21,2024

To: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board and Budget Committee

From: Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

RE: Downtown Sidewalk Repair and Renovation Plan FY 2026-2029 As Drafted by Sam Clarke, Director, DPW

To Whom It May Concern:

Our Committee wishes to express our sincere thanks to Sam Clarke, Director, DPW and Adam Ricker, Town Planner, for the initiative and professionalism they have consisted demonstrated in collaborating with our Committee. The Sidewalk Repair Plan attached is well-crafted with realistic annual benchmarks to improve the safety and accessible of our sidewalks for residents and visitors. The Plan is also incorporated into the transportation section of the Capital Improvement Plan which was recently updated and presented by Adam Ricker at the October 8<sup>th</sup> Planning Board meeting.

Sam has been in regular communication with NHDOT to ensure that the Town's construction approach meets ADA guidelines and utilizes the most up to date design expertise for sidewalk construction. Sam has been receptive to our Committee's concerns and questions and joined several members on an on-site tour of the most challenging sidewalk segments and intersections.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee voted unanimously to strongly support the funding and implementation of this plan to improve the walkability of the downtown area. As you may know, no major repairs have been implemented in the last five years and navigating them, particularly for seniors or people physically challenged, is challenging even on a pleasant summer day.

The Committee strongly advocates that the Town allocate the annual budgetary resources and continue to make annual contributions to the Capital Reserve Fund designated for sidewalk repair and renovation to bring this plan to fruition.

The Town also has the responsibility, in collaboration with NHDOT and other entities, to reduce the hazards at dangerous downtown intersections. The 2021 Master Plan and the Master Plan Survey clearly delineate that improving the mobility and the safety for walkers and bicyclists as a significant concern of residents. The Committee will continue

to work diligently to improve active transportation in alignment with the founding purpose of our group as established by the Board of Selectmen.

On Behalf of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee,

*Russell Moore*

Chair

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee