



## **Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Proposals**

*January 13, 2015*

Transportation Improvement Committee

The Town's interdepartmental TIP committee meets on an as-needed basis to discuss and develop projects to be advanced to the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) "Transportation Improvement Plan" (TIP). We are asking the Selectmen to accept the TIP Committee's list of project priorities so that the DPW and Community and Economic Development can allocate resources to promoting these projects with the MPO which manages the TIP process.

The MPO solicits municipal projects annually for consideration and they require a town investment in preliminary design up to 25% design. The Interdepartmental TIP Committee includes representatives from DPW, C&ED, Planning Board, and Police.

The interdepartmental TIP Committee has not met in a number of years as we advanced the priorities established by the Selectmen in 2005-2006. Most of the projects identified at that time have been accomplished, including most recently, the Cochituate Rail Trail, substantially completed in Summer 2014. In addition, the Town's top priority for the TIP in the last few years has been the Downtown Roadway and Streetscape improvements currently underway. A number of others that were proposed for inclusion on the TIP are no longer deemed urgent or viable, so the Town does not really have any projects under consideration at this time.

The committee has met several times over the last year to first determine a list of possible projects to advance for the TIP and then to prioritize them. The TIP Committee met in January to brainstorm ideas for the next round of projects that the Town will advance and submit for MPO consideration.

In August it met again to pare and prioritize the list. The MPO asks municipalities to list the priority for each project. Our prioritization is based on a number of factors, including safety, number of residents and businesses impacted, ability to coordinate with already planned work – particularly planned work underground, and potential regional impact, which increases a project's chances of inclusion on the TIP. The following four meet all of those criteria and are presented in the TIP Committee's recommended priority order:

1. **Union Avenue / Main Street Corridor Project** – Route 9 to Downtown including turn lanes on Main Street and upgrades to three intersections: Lincoln St., Walnut Street, and Mt. Wayte Avenue. DPW plans underground infrastructure improvements to this corridor in the next few years. Sellers said that design for this project could be funded from existing appropriations to get it to the level to be submitted to the TIP. The Town submitted a PNF for this project in December 2014.



2. **Edgell Road Corridor** – Water Street to Vernon – This was a high priority TIP project a few years ago but design was not advanced at the Town end. DPW says utility work is a number of years out and is a major undertaking. The committee felt that design could be approached in two phases so that intersections are initially addressed as Town projects and then the remaining corridor could advance under the TIP. The committee felt that this approach would emphasize the regional importance of this project.
3. **Salem End Road Bridge over the Reservoir** – this is a Town-owned bridge with some safety issues that will need to be addressed in the coming years. It can go on the TIP for state funding but the Town will need to fund the preliminary design. The group discussed the potential need to ask Town Meeting for a separate appropriation for the design of this project. DPW has submitted an FY2016 general fund capital budget request for \$125,000 to begin the design for replacement of the Salem End Road Bridge
4. **Route 30/Speen Street** – this project is progressing as part of other Town and state level planning around Exit 13 but is a high priority and may need Town design and advocacy in order to advance. It will be a strong project for the TIP because of the regional significance. DPW is planning to advance utility improvements on Cochituate Road between Speen Street and the Mass Pike as well as on Speen Street between Cochituate Road and Old Conn Path in 2015 and 2016.

**Next Steps/Process:**

Once the Board has endorsed the projects and the recommended priorities, DPW will proceed to identify and allocate funds to begin design efforts on each project to bring it to the required 25% design level for MassDOT to even consider it. DPW and C&ED will also complete the Project Need Forms and Project Notification Forms required to begin the process.