
TO: Mary Ann Conroy

DATE: November 20, 2012

FROM: Wright-Pierce Engineers

PROJECT NO.: 12532A/12533A

SUBJECT: Routes 1 & 236 Sidewalks

General

In response to public comments heard at the Kittery Planning Board meeting held on the evening of October 25, 2012, the following direction is being taken with regard to proposed bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements on Routes 1 and 236, on Adams Drive, and in relation to future planning for Memorial Circle.

Adams Drive

- Residents of Adams Drive and Ox Point Drive are concerned about inviting people to walk and bicycle through their neighborhood, and that they would like to preserve the quiet character of their road.
- Wright-Pierce has observed that Adams Drive receives more use by bicyclists than by vehicular drivers, and is also used by joggers and walkers from outside the neighborhood.
- It was suggested at the meeting that bicyclists be accommodated with a formal facility on the Route 1 side of the guardrail. A “controlled access limit line” is present between Adams Drive and Route 1, which would make it impossible to construct a sidewalk or bicycle facility along Route 1.
- Due to the low vehicular traffic on Adams Drive, however, it would probably be acceptable to allow bicyclists and pedestrians to continue using the roadway, as they currently do, even though this approach deviates from the Town’s standards for a dead end road, which would require a sidewalk to be constructed on one side of Adams Drive. It would also be desirable to construct a sidewalk and bicycle facility on Adams Drive for the purpose of improving future connectivity for bicyclists and pedestrians across Kittery.
- Because a shared use path is still being proposed to connect the weigh station to Memorial Circle, the “pass through” at the south end of Adams Drive will still need to be considered. Design attention will need to be given to the connection with regard to handicap accessibility, restriction of vehicular access, and signage regarding the transition from the shared use path to the roadway.

Rogers Road Extension

- Representatives of the Historical Society were concerned about how to integrate the sidewalk with their parking area and raised concerns that their yard will be reduced. They would like to be more involved in the design process.

- Wright-Pierce and The Town's Commissioner of Public Works have met to discuss options for integrating parking with sidewalks in front of the Historical Society. There were some questions regarding property ownership that are beginning to be resolved. It appears there could be multiple options for integrating parking with sidewalks in front of the Historical Society that would not endanger pedestrians and that would maintain outdoor space at the building.

Memorial Circle

- Meeting attendees generally supported the idea of keeping the Circle's layout the same, and modifying the approaches to the circle to improve safety.
- Safety concerns included making adequate provisions for emergency vehicle access and circulation as well as improving sight lines toward the road under the 236 overpass from the Route 1 Bypass.
- It was mentioned that the new work on the Circle should not disturb the Blue Star Monument.

Rogers Road

- Attendees generally thought the south side of the roadway would be a better option for the sidewalk.
- Attendees noted that traffic will increase when the bridge is back on-line and stressed that the crossings needed for a sidewalk on the south side of Rogers Road should be designed with safety in mind. They also noted that reducing the existing shoulder will make it more difficult for emergency vehicles to pass other vehicles.
- Since the October Planning Board meeting, Wright-Pierce has evaluated stopping sight distance on Rogers Road at Goodsoe Road and near Shepard's Cove Road.
- Stopping sight distance at Goodsoe Road was good in both directions. A crosswalk can be placed at this location. Because of high traffic volume and speeds, measures should be taken to increase the crosswalk's visibility and/or slow traffic in the vicinity of the crosswalk.
- Stopping sight distance at Shepard's Cove Road was good in a southerly direction, but more limited in the northerly direction. A clump of trees blocked sight distance in the southerly direction. It is recommended that stopping sight distance be re-evaluated in this location after the clump of trees is removed. It is not possible to rule out the crosswalk at this time. If a crosswalk is constructed, measures should be taken to increase the crosswalk's visibility and/or slow traffic in the vicinity of the crosswalk.
- It is possible that a crosswalk in this location would be located closer than MaineDOT's minimum distance of 500' from the next nearest crosswalk on Memorial Circle. However, because of the curvature of the road, it would not be desirable to shift the proposed crosswalk further to the east. A design exception may be needed from MaineDOT to allow construction of a crosswalk in this location.