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MARBLEHEAD TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2nd QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE SELECT BOARD
February-April 2024

Under the Town's adopted Article X, the TSAC was formed to provide advisory assistance to the Select Board on matters pertaining to the safety aspects of the town's transportation infrastructure and promoting the Town's Complete Streets policy. As an advisory body, we are submitting this quarterly report to inform the Select Board of our recommendations. We recognize it is the Select Board's prerogative to determine which of TSAC recommendations it considers are priorities and wishes to advance. We further recognize that unless the TSAC's recommended actions include already programmed labor costs and materials either in stock or planned, they may not be pursued. In such cases, the TSAC is available to assist the Select Board with unfunded actions it still considers as priorities by pursuing additional grant/funding opportunities.

During this period, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) held three hybrid public meetings, on February 26, March 18, and April 22.

At each meeting, the TSAC presented and debated safety issues consistent with our mission statement. Residents offered comments about traffic safety issues in town. While diverse opinions were presented, residents generally wished to reduce excessive speeding to make Marblehead's roads safer and more welcoming for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users, while preserving or enhancing the town's unique character.

TSAC accomplishments during this period:

- A. Undertook a comprehensive review of existing and potential bike parking facilities in town. Recommended bike racks be installed in 8 town-owned locations (Abbott Hall, Community Center, Fort Sewall, Bird Sanctuary, Castle Rock, Village St Town Dock, Fountain Park / Old Burial Hill, and Brown's Pond / Steer Swamp). The Marblehead Rotary Club has offered to fund the acquisition of 2 racks, and the town's Sustainability Coordinator plans to apply for an 80/20 matching grant from the state, enabling the town to acquire 10 bike racks at no cost to taxpayers.

- B. Created and reviewed conceptual options for traffic calming and safety improvements on Maple St. and recommended that the Town develop a plan for striping the shoulders to reduce speeding and improve safety for children near Glover School. (See Exhibit 1 for an example.) The committee decided against a recommendation for a mid-block crosswalk until speeding and sight line limitations can be addressed. We note that the Town's Bicycle Master Plan consultant should weigh in on the potential for bike lanes or buffered bike lanes on Maple Street.
- C. Created and reviewed conceptual options for reducing speeding and improving pedestrian and cyclist safety on Lafayette St. from the Salem town line to Maple Street. The TSAC strongly supports Marblehead Highway Department's plan to install sidewalks and edge lines on this section of road.
- D. Created and reviewed seven-eight conceptual options for traffic calming, safety, and aesthetic enhancements on Beach Street between Atlantic and Ocean Avenues. Recommended that this section of Beach Street be prioritized for improvement via Complete Streets or another source of external funding. The TSAC provided input to the Marblehead Department of Public Works and Highway Department. The Town has engaged a transportation consultant to assist in identifying an appropriate Complete Streets project for Beach Street (See Exhibit 2 for an early TSAC Beach Street conceptual example.)
- E. Created and reviewed conceptual options for traffic calming on Laurel St. The Committee plans to gather more traffic data once utility construction in the area is completed on neighboring streets before making a recommendation to pursue changes in this area.
- F. Created and reviewed conceptual options for safety improvements for Pleasant St. at its intersections with Lafayette Street/Humphrey Street and Smith Street/Baldwin Road. (See Exhibit 3 for an example of TSAC concept for Pleasant/Lafayette/Humphrey Streets). The Marblehead Department of Public Works has engaged a transportation consultant to evaluate and refine improvements along the Pleasant Street corridor.

The TSAC has generated a substantial amount of information on each of the above issues. We would welcome the Select Board's feedback as to the desirability and feasibility of these advisory recommendations, so that implementation can be expedited in accordance with our Mission Statement.

Respectfully submitted,
Marblehead Traffic Safety Advisory Committee

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Appendix

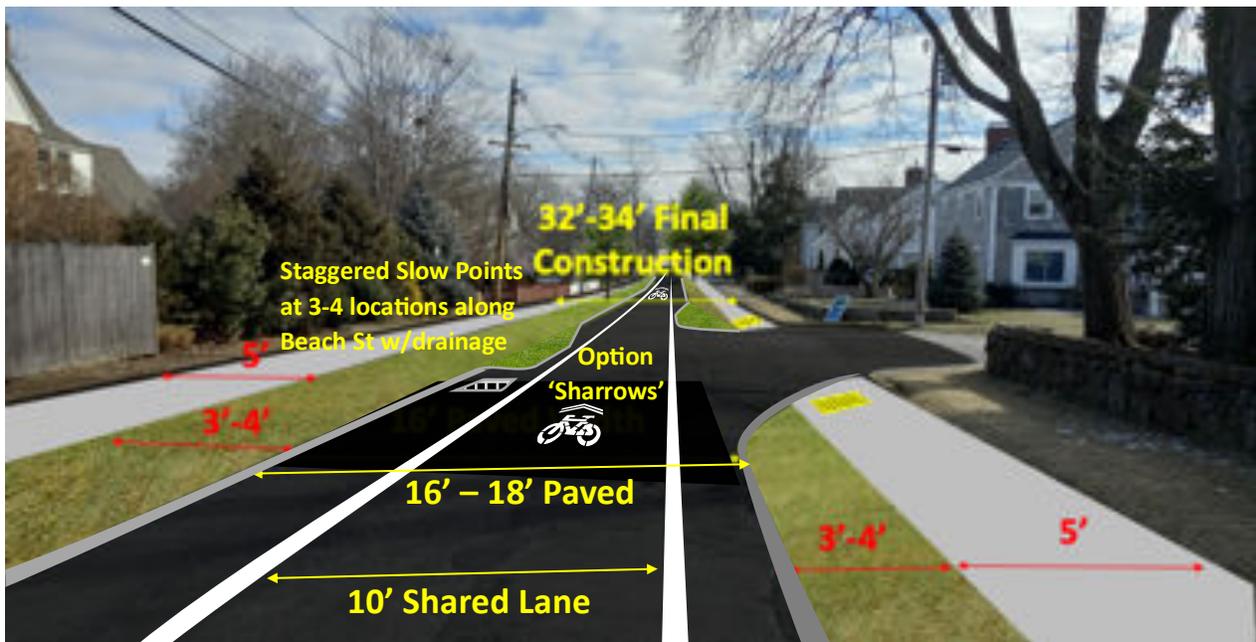
Exhibit 1: An Option for Maple St



Exhibit 2: One of several TSAC Concepts for Beach St Complete Streets Enhancements (existing/potential)



Existing Beach Street Conditions

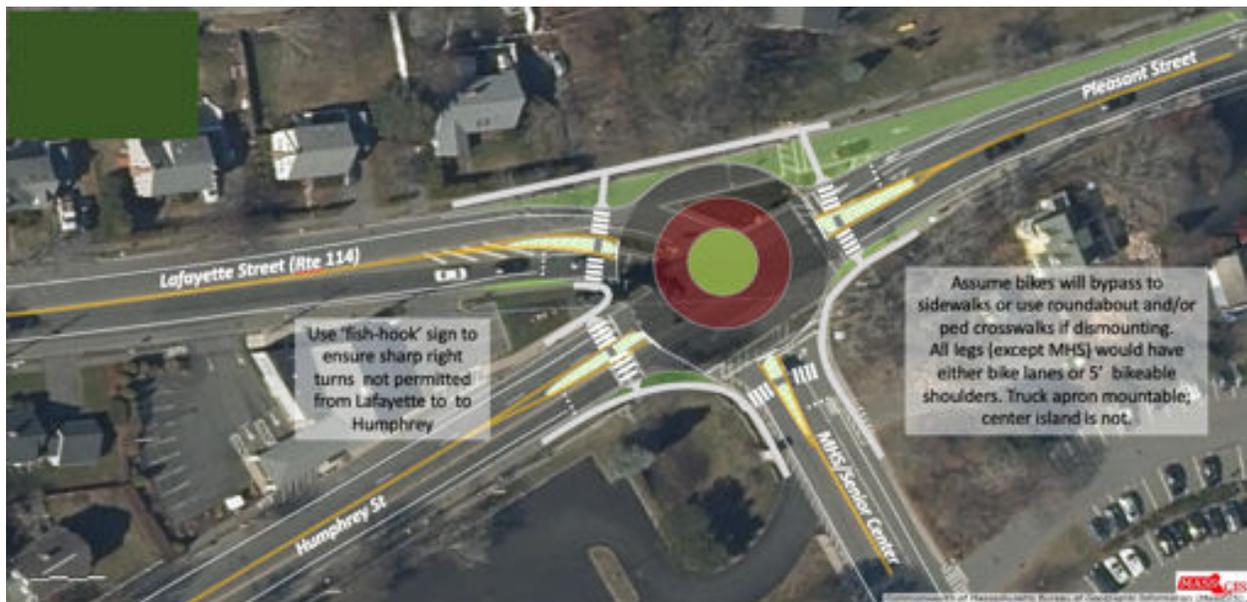


Example of Beach Street Complete Streets Features (one of several options)

Exhibit 3: Short and Long Range TSAC Concepts for Tents Corner Safety Upgrades.



Short Range Tents Corner Concept



Long Range Tents Corner Concept