

## **Complete Streets Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** 5pm, Wednesday, 1/22/25

**Location:** Lewiston DPW, 103 Adams Avenue

**Committee Officials Present:** Jeremiah Bartlett, Chair (Auburn), Vice Chair (Vacant), Paul Josephson, Secretary (Public Health and Wellness Rep.)

**Committee Members Present:** Karen Blakelock (Lewiston); Zoe Caron (Lewiston); Justin Snow (Lewiston); John Ruccolo (Auburn)

**Others in attendance:** Brad Pineau (ARTC), Phil Crowell (Auburn City Manager), Kris Bennett (City of Auburn), Kevin Gagne (Director of LPW), Paul Niehoff (City of Lewiston), Richard Bissonette (Auburn resident & retired school crossing guard)

**Committee Members Not Present:** Heather Barnett (Auburn) - excused; Ted Walworth (Lewiston) - excused

**Committee Vacancies:** Auburn (1)

### **Agenda**

1. **Welcome/Check-In/Introductions:** New and returning members introduced themselves.

The Chair updated on a clarified meeting location plan for public notice purposes. The meeting location will be based on the calendar date the meeting is scheduled.

- January 1st through June 30th - Lewiston Public Works (Conference Room)
- July 1st through December 31st - Auburn City Hall (typically the Community Room)

2. **Approval of October 2024 Meeting Notes**

Motion to approve minutes (as emailed by the chair) by John Ruccolo. Seconded by Justin Snow. Vote passes, minutes approved.

3. **Public Comment**

Richard Bissonette spoke of serious concern for Minot Avenue (Auburn) safety. Richard worked for years as a school crossing guard and notes speeding, distraction, and general lack of concern by drivers for children and other pedestrians at the Fairview School area crossings. Richard notes being present for a vehicle on pedestrian crash that fortunately only caused minor injury. Richard is concerned that without changes to Minot Avenue there will be a very serious injury.

4. **Discussion on Committee Role in Auburn as Per Ordinance**

Phil Crowell, Auburn City Manager presented on Auburn staffing reorganization and changes as related to transportation, planning and other relevance to the CS committee. The city manager wants Auburn to be purposeful in gathering feedback from CS and other committees to share

with the city council. Auburn will also increase efforts to have information made available ahead of time to staff that will be participating in the CS meeting.

Eric Cousins provided email updates for the committee prior to this meeting. Eric is now Public Services Director for Auburn, overseeing Transportation, Engineering, Code Enforcement, Planning (now a stand-alone department), and Economic Development departments.

Kris Bennett will continue to attend CS meetings and will be updated on department information outside of Engineering to be able to discuss with CS and the community at large.

Emily Carrington, City Clerk, is the point of contact for the CS Chair, meetings, and public notices.

The city manager encourages, when appropriate, to share the collective position or voted upon decisions of the committee to be communicated, including for the city council.

There is an applicant for Auburn's CS committee vacancy which will be addressed at a February meeting.

New comprehensive plan in Auburn is being developed. The last plan was in 2010 with an update to it in 2021. It will include plans for future land use, zoning, infrastructure, agriculture zone and the Lake Auburn watershed. The city is in the vendor negotiation stage and there will be a vote on leadership. More active work on this will be in the late summer or early fall.

#### **5. Updates on SS4A (Safe Streets for All)**

Brad from ATRC reports that funding was frozen on SS4A related to a presidential executive order. They are two months and ~\$25,000 short of finishing the project. Next steps are not clear at this time.

25 locations/segments were identified in each city in the plans. There are four documents drafted, two each for Lewiston and Auburn. One is a crash summary and the other a safety action plan. Safety action drafts have been provided to the cities and comments have come back. The next draft will be shared with CS and other community groups. There is a policy meeting tomorrow. Brad will circulate draft documents and new information from the policy meeting.

#### **6. Initial Discussion on Northwoods Bikeway (Lewiston)**

Paul Niehoff reports there will be Tall Pines repaving (Strawberry Ave. to Northwood Rd. in 2026). There is discussion of this being a neighborhood byway with active signage and other marking for non-vehicle travel. A neighborhood byway can be on or off road, and is an active transportation connection. One example is Thompson's Point to Woodfords Corner in Portland, where there are signs and road stenciling for drivers to be alert to other modes and use of the road.

The ARTC website contains the updated Regional Plan for Lewiston, Auburn, and surrounding communities. The plan includes priorities, approvals, information on state and local funding and control.

#### **7. Updates on Continental Mill TMP/Offsites**

Cedar and Oxford Streets: Traffic movement permit from State DOT Status is very close to obtaining permit with it potentially sent for signature yesterday. Left turns limited, island construction, crosswalk, flashing beacons, raised crosswalks are all proposed.

Existing RRFB (yellow flashing beacon) raised crossing near River St. and Oxford. Flexible delineators for bike lanes, particularly when left turn. There wasn't enough room on, so they will be either side of bridge.

Dedicated left turn lane from Cedar to Lincoln. New crosswalk near entrance to mill on Cedar.

Potential path for a new multiuse path, coined the "ribbon," along the river from Simard Payne park to Cedar St. 2026 is goal for a timeframe. Easements already in place for the ribbon trail.

#### **8. Updates on SLA/RUAC/Casco Bay Trail/Lewiston Lower**

See materials sent with the meeting agenda. There was a resolve and bill the state DOT sent to the legislature. Auburn voted to remove RR tracks and create an interim path. Bill LD 30 only addresses the Portland to Yarmouth section. This topic to be taken up more in detail at another CS meeting.

#### **9. Updates on Lewiston/Auburn Transportation Plans**

Auburn: Minot Ave. study and planning is being prioritized. Court St. is still being considered, but budgeting was a factor and required prioritization of one. Danville Corner and the Beach Hill intersection is identified for changes. Currently there is a flashing yellow for one road then flashing red for the crossing. A full signal or restricted access turning are being considered.

Lisbon St. study will be posted for RFP soon. DOT scope of work includes areas to Canal, Lisbon, Main and Sabattus. The demonstration project along Canal St to be discussed by CS, potential at February meeting. This pilot relates to the Riverfront masterplan. Considerations and discussion include a two-way bike lane on Canal.

#### **10. Updates on Lewiston/Auburn CIP Highlights**

Capital Improvement Plans: Lewiston Plan submitted. Main St. changes for those with handicaps or disabilities is included. Auburn has small area plans, one for Washington St., one downtown, one for the airport. Regarding the Fairview school area concerns, the State just gave feedback for the Minot Ave study and the city is moving ahead with Minot Ave planning. The recommendation is a reduction to three lanes.

### **11. Discussion on Loring Ave/Sidewalk**

Kris Bennett presented planning for Loring Ave. There is a neighborhood meeting tomorrow 1/23. South Main to Seventh. Proposed plans are one section 23 ft curb to curb, 5 ft sidewalks, Committee discussed the plans and how they add improvements for all modes of transport. Some residents may be concerned with the changes as the sidewalk will require additional use of the right of way. Motion to support the city's plan as presented by Karen Blakelock, seconded by Justin Snow. Passed by unanimous vote.

### **12. Discussion on Vice Chair Vacancy**

Bob Rand's committee term ended. Bob was a member since the committee was formed and provided long service to the committee. The chair recognized Bob's contributions. The Vice Chair seat is vacant, but with the number of new members, no voting at this meeting, only discussion of the roles and responsibilities was made. Vice Chair to be voted on at a future meeting.

### **13. Other Items**

Auburn has infrastructure planning work occurring and needs timely feedback. February meeting requested and agreed to by the committee. Lewiston will also have topics to present at the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned @ 6:59pm

**Next Meeting: Specially scheduled February 26, 2025 at 5pm (Lewiston Public Works, 103 Adams Ave.)**

**Next Official Scheduled Meeting:** April 23, 2025, to be held in Lewiston

Meetings the Fourth Wednesday of January, April, June, October at 5 PM for Lewiston/Auburn  
Optional Meetings can be held in other months or Community-Specific