

# Complete Streets Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 5pm, Wednesday, 2/26/25

**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); John Ruccolo (Auburn) Katherine Truitt (Auburn), Ted Walworth (Lewiston), Justin Snow (Lewiston)

**Others in attendance:** Brad Pineau (ARTC), Kris Bennett (City of Auburn), Paul Niehoff (City of Lewiston), Kevin Gagne (Director of LPW), Dana Staples (Auburn), Mo (Auburn), Mike (Auburn), Richard Bissonette (Auburn), Alex Gerry (Auburn), Mike Adler (Auburn)

**Committee Members Not Present:** Heather Barnett (Auburn); Zoe Caron (Lewiston)-excused

## Agenda

1. Welcome/Check-In/Introductions
2. Approval of January 2025 Meeting Notes
  - Motion to accept by Karen B., seconded by John R., vote passes
3. Public Comment
  - No public comment for items not already on the agenda.
4. Discussion on Traffic Enforcement Devices/Potential State Laws
  - John R. brought forward this agenda item to address concern for those not abiding by signals, signs, and other laws. John met with the Auburn City Manager regarding this concern and reports a group is in the process of being formed to address the topic. One aspect to consider is that surveillance laws and guidelines require law enforcement or other witness to a violation, not only a camera or other surveillance method. Another concern is that current policy/law is that all revenue from violations has to be sent to the State, not to the municipality utilizing officer resources to cite the violation. John is in the early stages of his efforts around this and will work to gather more information and discussion from police, engineering, AVCOG, and residents/public before reporting to the committee again.
  - Though quite dated now, maybe as old as 2008, Brad P. will send out a redlight study from the ARTC.
5. Canal Street Demonstration Project (Lewiston)

- Paul N. presented regarding Canal St., one of the five corridors with planning occurring. Trying to fast track Canal St. Separated 2 way bike lane proposed for the Canal St. demonstration project, starting in the summer 2025. This will use one of the two current vehicle travel lanes for the bike lane. Intersections need new signage for two lane bike traffic. Chestnut St. bridge closure was recommended for the project, not by the City of Lewiston. This was recommended to deal with the complexity of the intersection at Canal and Chestnut. All way stop at Chestnut and Canal is another option discussed. Kevin G. outlines process for feedback from different groups before more decisions are made and the project is brought to the City Council.
- Motion the CS committee supports the Canal Street Demonstration Project as proposed with the exception of CS requesting further exploration of the recommendation to close the Chestnut St. bridge for the project. Motion by Katherine T., seconded by John R. - Vote: Passes

#### 6. Loring Avenue Second Discussion (Auburn)

- Kris B. presented additional planning by the City from a prior CS meeting. South Main to Seventh St. section.
- Public meetings feedback was consistent in opposition to the sidewalk addition (one side). The City conducted an abutter notification survey to reach others not at the meeting. Of the 16 survey responses, 13 were for no sidewalk, 2 for a sidewalk. Residents say it is safe to walk on the street. Also, though in the Walton Elementary school walking zone, residents report it is not a common route for children to walk to school.
- City is (later in the discussion clarified to “has”) reconsidering the plan for the sidewalk. Plan from city to extend roadway if no sidewalk.
- Consistent width planned regardless of the sidewalk. Crash query tool found no pedestrian issue for this street.
- Mike Adler from Auburn reports that 3-4 children live on the road. Children appear to be either bused or brought by parents to the school. Notes winter clearance of the sidewalk would be an issue based as common for other streets.
- Curbing related sidewalk costs are not known at this time.
- Mo from Auburn says there should be no sidewalk, it is not needed, wanted, and is an extra expense. Mo showed a Fortin Way photo for comparison, but CS and meeting attendees had no knowledge/recollection for how that street’s decisions were made.
- Mo from Auburn handed the Chair what he says is a petition opposing sidewalk and curbing, he says it was signed by all residents from Greenfield St. Only one copy was provided and therefore not able to be reviewed by CS committee members.

- Alex Gerry, Auburn resident for 20 years, reports no issues with walking the street, including for children. Concern for plowing damage is historical and concern for the sidewalk, which Alex recommends as not a necessary plan or expense.
- Dana Staples, neighborhood resident, reports that it would be acceptable to not have a sidewalk, but also says this would be a missed opportunity to not do it now when other work is already being done. Noted by Dana that Greenfield has a sidewalk that ends at Loring. Dana says adding the sidewalk is the right thing to do.
- 214 was the daily traffic count when last completed in 2023.
- Sidewalk snow removal responsibility - Auburn - public works priority system. Lewiston, maps of which are cleared by city are available, similar in some ways to Auburn. Lewiston's ordinance does place front of property responsibility to property owner.
- Costs regarding having or not having the sidewalk are not figured at this point.
- Clarification that the City of Auburn, based primarily on resident feedback, changed the City recommendation to not add a sidewalk.
- Justin S. made motion to change the CS recommendation of a sidewalk addition for this project to not add the sidewalk. Seconded from Ted W. Vote: failed to pass 4-3, prior CS recommendation of sidewalk addition as a part of the street project remains.
- This vote, of CS having different recommendation than City planning triggers the CS Committee the need to notify the City of the vote and attend a meeting regarding the project. Chair accepts this responsibility. (NOTE: Chair attended City Council meeting on 3/17/24, where City Council overrode CS Committee recommendation 7-0).

#### 7. Granite Street Reconstruction (Auburn)

- Kris B. presented city engineering plans for this project. Improvements to drainage, crossings, and curbing, but not significant modifications to the current street layout. Motion for the CS committee to support the plan as presented by Katherine T. Seconded by Karen B. Vote: passes

#### 8. Hillsdale Street Reconstruction (Auburn)

- Kris B. presented city engineering plans for this project. Improvements to roadway and sloping. Based on current planning and use, sidewalk not present and not recommended by the city. No resident request known for a sidewalk. Katherine T. made motion to support the project as presented, second by Ted W. Vote: passes 4-3

#### 9. Davis Avenue Reconstruction (Auburn)

- City planning presented by Kris B. Lake St. to end section only. Full reconstruction planned. ADA updates, sidewalks, drainage updates where there was recent flooding. Concern by CS member about tree removal for the project. City reports having nine trees added in the bid form, which is more than expected to be removed. Final decision on removal still needs to be made in consultation with city arborist.
- Paul J. motion to support the project as presented. Seconded by Ted W., Vote: passes

#### 10. Merrow Road Reconstruction (Auburn)

- One section with no trucks allowed. Out to bid this week. Already discussed by committee prior, update only. As planned this should be significant improvements for vehicles and for biking and walking use.

#### 11. Blanchard Road Reconstruction (Auburn)

- Rte 4 across from Roys. Low population residential street near Wallingfords Equipment business. Box cut planning. CS discussion that this location is not in typical urban zoning for discussion. CS doesn't necessarily want to limit to zones based on a network. Motion to support the project as presented by Katherine T., Second by Jeremiah B., Vote: passes

#### 12. Perkins Ridge Reclamation (Auburn)

- West Shore to Garfield section. Plan to level/even out the hills. Brief discussion of Reclamation vs. Reconstruction. Motion to support the project as presented by Katherine T., second by Jeremiah B., Vote: passes

#### 13. Hersey Hill Road Reclamation (Auburn)

- Kris B. presented on the planned reclamation project and treatment. Motion of CS support as presented for the project by Katherine T., seconded by Jeremiah B., Vote: passes.

#### 14. Mount Auburn Ave Refresher (Auburn)

- Update from the City. Bids for the project too high for what was budgeted. MPI is typically 50/50 state/local match, but the municipality can contribute more if needed and desired.

#### 15. Election of Vice Chair

- Karen Blakelock offered to serve in the Vice Chair capacity, which the Chair accepted as a self nomination. Chair seconds the nomination. Vote passes,

Karen is now the Vice Chair of the Lewiston Auburn Complete Streets Committee.

16. Adjourn 6:30

**Next Official Scheduled Meeting (April 23, 2025) to be held in Lewiston @ 103 Adams Ave.**

**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 Meetings**