



Town of West Boylston Transportation Committee

To: Town Wide Planning Committee

CC: Board of Selectmen

From: Mereddyd Evans, Chairman

Date: March 15, 2007

Re: Report on Master Plan Implementation-Transportation Committee

I am preparing this report to the Town Wide Planning Committee on behalf of the Transportation Committee. This report will detail those items identified as generally being the responsibility of the Transportation Committee in the West Boylston Master Plan and the progress made on satisfactorily completing those recommendations.

In early 2006, the Board of Selectmen authorized the Town Administrator to create and appoint the Transportation Committee. That committee was advertised and they held their organizational meeting in early July of 2006. The DRAFT mission statement for this committee is as follows: To advise the Board of Selectmen and other Town Boards on transportation issues of importance to the Town of West Boylston. To study needs and implement targeted improvements (i.e. the Route 12 Corridor reconstruction, sidewalk and trail projects, dangerous intersections, etc.). The Transportation Committee shall work towards implementing transportation goals found in the Route 12 Master Plan and the West Boylston Master Plan and to offer suggestions to improve or add to the goals found in these two documents. Members may also be asked to serve as Town liaisons to regional transportation organizations.

Tasks for the Transportation to consider under the Master Plan are:

- 1) Improve access to Hartwell Street Industrial District: (Long-term project) Listed as a 'long-term' project of the Town, this project has been referred to our committee. Town Administrator Leon Gaumond, DPW Director John Westerling,

and one of our members, Charles Greenough, have toured this area in recent months and the Committee is in receipt of a report on this matter (attached). While it is a difficult task, we intend to continue to look at this on a regular basis.

- 2) With the cooperation of the Massachusetts Highway Department, prepare Master Plan to re-develop the Route 12 Corridor as a community Gateway. This should include beautification elements, such as landscaping, pedestrian connections, and underground wiring. (Medium-term project) The Route 12 Master Plan was completed in 1998. The implementation of the Route 12 Master Plan is one of the core missions of the newly created Transportation Committee. In 2006, the Transportation Committee applied for T.I.P. funding for this project however the application has been denied. We are continuing to look at this issue.
- 3) Implement the Route 12 Master Plan. (Long-term project) As was mentioned above, the implementation of the Route 12 Master Plan is one of the core missions of the newly created Transportation Committee. It is my expectation that the Transportation Committee will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen over the next several months and should be asked to make a formal presentation on their progress sometime in their first year of existence. The Committee has received copies of the Rte. 12 Master Plan and we expect to work on this issue starting this Summer.
- 4) Improve pedestrian facilities, especially to commercial areas, including the installation of sidewalks along the southern part of Route 12. (Long-term project) Listed as a 'long-term' project of the Town, this project will be one of the projects suggested to the Transportation Committee for their review. The Transportation Committee has begun an aggressive and innovative program to study the existing sidewalks in the Town and to make recommendations on improvements and additions. The end result may serve as a Sidewalk Master Plan for the Town and we shall work with the DPW and Selectmen on determining how we can meet the goals of that plan. The DPW will be doing some gateway improvements during FY07.
- 5) With the cooperation of the Massachusetts Highway Department, prepare Master Plan to re-develop the Route 12 Corridor as a community Gateway. This should include beautification elements, such as landscaping, pedestrian connections, and underground wiring. (Medium-term project) As was mentioned above, the Route 12 Master Plan was completed in 1998 and the implementation of the Route 12 Master Plan is one of the core missions of the newly created Transportation Committee.
- 6) Implement the Route 12 Master Plan. (Long-term project) As was mentioned above, the implementation of the Route 12 Master Plan is one of the core missions of the newly created Transportation Committee. It is our hope that the Transportation Committee will be meeting with the Board of Selectmen during the year to discuss this issue.
- 7) Develop a plan to improve and construct sidewalks and promote bicycling activity through expansion of the trail system. Improve walking systems near schools and construct sidewalks along Route 12 to insure pedestrian safety along this busy roadway. (Medium-term project) Listed as a medium term goal of the Board of

Selectmen, this item will be attacked by the Transportation Committee through our efforts on the Sidewalk Master Plan.

- 8) Participate in regional transportation planning activities, especially the Transportation Committee of the CMRPC and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to keep abreast of regional projects that may affect the Town and insure that Town projects are advanced. (On-going basis) The Town is represented at these meetings by the Board of Selectmen's representative to the CMRPC (Charles Greenough) as well as the Transportation Committee members who, on their own volition, have begun to attend these meetings on behalf of the Town. Where we did not have representation in the past, it is expected that the Town will have adequate representation in the future. Ms. Harris has been appointed to a Statewide & Greater Worcester consolidated transportation planning committee for the Federal Government. In addition, Mr. Gaumond continues to serve on the WRTA's Board of Directors.
- 9) Participate in planning studies that consider a new I-190 interchange at Malden St. in Holden to represent the Town's opposition to the proposal. (Long-term project) The Transportation Committee stands ready to engage in this project if and when it becomes necessary to do so. At this point, there are no active discussions about this matter that we are aware of.
- 10) Improve access to Hartwell Street Industrial District. (Long-term project) As was detailed above, this project will continue to be monitored.
- 11) Install curb ramps to provide barrier-free access to community facilities. (Long-term project) Listed as a long-term goal of the Board of Selectmen, the Transportation Committee stands ready to work with the Selectmen and DPW on this project.
- 12) Open a dialogue with the WRTA to seek improved transit services for West Boylston. (Short-term project) There have been already some changes to the WRTA transit routes however they reduce coverage, not expanding it by providing service to the new and unanticipated Salter School. We hope to study this issue further with an emphasis on senior and disabled riders within the year or so.

We would also like to report that the Board of Selectmen voted to add Rte. 140 improvements to the T.I.P. list this year as well and it was rejected. We shall endeavor to advocate for these improvements as well.

I hope this report satisfactorily answers the concerns of the Town Wide Planning Committee. We would recommend that the TWPC approve this document as written and to amend the implementation plan to include the Transportation Committee under 'Responsibility' for each of the above items and to add the Rte. 140 improvements under Transportation Goals. As always, please feel free to contact the Transportation Committee if we can be of further assistance.