

# Ocean Street Sidewalk Project Responses to Public Comments

March 29, 2023

## Notes:

- We extend thanks to all those who provided comments following the public information meeting in February 2023.
- Comments are paraphrased for brevity/clarity.
- We have noted instances where multiple similar comments were received.

## Comments and Responses:

### A. Traffic Calming

1. **Comment:** I am in support of raised crosswalks or similar deterrent options (e.g., cobblestone rumble strips, etc.) to discourage speeding between the Ocean/Gosnold intersection and the current Kalmus beach entrance. (10 additional similar comments received)

**Response:** We propose to install a raised crosswalk on Ocean Street a short distance south of the Yachtsman Condos, at the north end of the proposed shared use path leading to Kalmus Beach.

### B. Street Lights

1. **Comment:** I prefer cobrahead lighting on every pole as it would reduce impacts to wildlife in the adjacent marsh and the viewing of the night sky. I do not like the new Sea Street type lighting for our lower Ocean Street as it is overwhelming and too bright. (4 additional similar comments received)

**Response:** We are proposing to install cobrahead street lights (matching the existing street lights) on utility poles where lights are not already affixed, and possibly replacing those lights that already exist to improve uniformity and function.

2. **Comment:** I don't object to Sea Street or Bears' Way lighting and would also accept cobrahead lighting. Just not sure what would be best.

**Response:** We are proposing to install cobra head street lights. This lighting type is expected to be the most unobtrusive since it will match the existing

lighting and will be installed on existing utility poles, and dark skies compliant (avoiding light pollution).

3. **Comment:** We need to re-look at the lighting options. We were presented with options that were more energy efficient, cost less, and certainly nicer looking than what we have now.

**Response:** Lighting options considered earlier in the development of this project are significantly more expensive than the cobrahead lights currently proposed on existing utility poles, and less energy efficient because more fixtures would be needed due to shorter posts. Aesthetics are often subjective, so while some individuals may prefer closely-spaced lamp posts (which cannot be installed along the central part of this area, resulting in at least two different lighting types in the project), a larger number of other residents have voiced a preference for the less-intrusive cobrahead lights.

4. **Comment:** My main concern for this project is the street lighting on Ocean Street and at Kalmus. I hope that all lighting will be dark sky compliant. This means no light should be above the horizontal plane. This will reduce light pollution. It will allow for safety and healthy viewing of the night sky. Massachusetts environmental agencies are trying to stop unregulated outdoor lighting.

**Response:** Compliance with dark skies lighting criteria is required for this project per local and regional design standards.

5. **Comment:** I would like confirmation that the proposed cobrahead lights will not be any brighter than the existing pole lights.

**Response:** The new cobrahead lights might be slightly brighter than the existing lights simply because light elements are brightest when installed new and then dim over time. The proposed street lights will be dark skies compliant and dimmable.

### C. Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

1. **Comment:** I am in favor of the proposed sidewalks and pedestrian shoulder paths. (1 additional similar comment received)

**Response:** The primary objective of this project is to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility along the south end of Ocean Street; therefore, the project scope is primarily focused on constructing pedestrian facilities that will meet the needs of all residents and visitors.

2. **Comment:** I am in support of having a sidewalk between the roadway and fence on the east side of Ocean St between the Ocean/Gosnold intersection and the Town access way to HYC in lieu of a walkway on the east side of the fence as currently proposed. (1 additional similar comment received)

**Response:** We are proposing a shared use path east of the fence as the area between the fence and road is blocked with infrastructure and trees. Also, locating it east of the fence continues the alignment proposed from JFK Memorial to the Veterans Beach driveway at the intersection of Ocean Street & Gosnold Street and increases user safety.

3. **Comment:** I am not in favor of extending the walkway from the entrance of Veterans Park to the entrance to the Yacht Club. I think it is a waste of money.

**Response:** The proposed shared use path will improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and accessibility.

4. **Comment:** Why not paint bike lanes on the road in lieu of an 8-foot wide shared use path, in order to save money?

**Response:** Ocean Street is not wide enough for separate bike lanes. A shared use path (wide sidewalk) will provide significantly greater safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, and is consistent with the primary objective of this project and the Town Council's appropriation of funds for the project.

5. **Comment:** Why is a shared use path proposed on the east side of Ocean Street from JFK Memorial to Veterans Park when there's already a sidewalk on the west side of the street?

**Response:** Many people seek to walk or ride their bikes from Main Street to Kalmus Beach, and the Town's Open Space & Recreation Plan identifies a goal of creating a continuous pathway along this route – similar to the highly successful shared use path constructed along Sea Street a few years ago. This project focuses on creating the southern end of such a pathway, linking

these popular parks and beaches with paved paths that will meet federal and state accessibility requirements. With substantial Town properties and attractions on the east side of Ocean Street, it is more feasible and appropriate for this pathway to be located on the east side of the road.

6. **Comment:** Veterans Park needs a new paved walkway on the south side of the entrance drive. Why was this not mentioned?

**Response:** A separate future project is being planned for improvements to Veterans Park, including the sidewalk you mentioned. A short segment of that sidewalk at the intersection of Ocean Street and Gosnold Street will be improved in the Ocean Street Sidewalk project.

7. **Comment:** There is no room for sidewalks on either side of Ocean Street between Gosnold Street and the south end of the Yachtsman Condos.

**Response:** Actually, there is sufficient width for narrow sidewalks along both sides of Ocean Street in this area; however, the private parking lots immediately adjacent to the road preclude sidewalks in most of that stretch. Therefore, we are planning to mark pedestrian paths on the road shoulders in this area; and in a couple locations short segments of sidewalks are planned.

8. **Comment:** Why are you proposing an 8-foot sidewalk from south of the condos to Kalmus Beach? Bikes belong on the other side of the road.

**Response:** Currently there are no separate bicycle or pedestrian facilities in this area, so you are correct that bicyclists are required to ride on the right with the flow of traffic, while pedestrians are supposed to walk on the left road shoulder facing oncoming vehicles (however, the unimproved east shoulder is generally wider and probably safer for pedestrians in both directions over much of this distance). The proposed shared use path will be separated from the road so that bicyclists and pedestrians have a safer and more convenient option accommodating two-way travel.

9. **Comment:** I love the idea of the walkway starting at the JFK Memorial and staying inside the wooden rail fence.

**Response:** This will improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and accessibility while providing users with an enjoyable walk or ride through the edge of the park.

10. **Comment:** In general we are very supportive of the project and the aesthetic and safety benefits for Ocean Street.

**Response:** Acknowledged.

#### D. Kalmus Beach Entrance/Exit

1. **Comment:** I'm in favor of moving the entrance to Kalmus Beach. (1 additional similar comment received)

**Response:** Acknowledged.

2. **Comment:** The existing beach entrance has been there a long time, aren't people used to it by now? Have there been accidents at this location? The field of vision is better at the end of Ocean Street than at the proposed new driveway. This will cost a lot of money and seems to be a "want" rather than a "need".

**Response:** Many residents are probably familiar with the current driveway; however, this beach is also used by many visitors – and residents and visitors alike are at heightened risk for crashes due to the blind curve. Based on available information there were no reported crashes at this intersection over the past 10 years; however, sight distances on Ocean Street and on Hawes Avenue at this intersection do not meet standards for safe stopping distances. While creating an all-way stop would mitigate the sight distance issue, the proposed new driveway will also provide more room for off-street vehicle stacking to avoid beach-bound vehicles queuing in the road, and will create a somewhat sheltered area adjacent to the beach for some proposed amenities including landscaping, windsurfer rigging area, and rinse station.

3. **Comment:** I like the idea of a separate bike/pedestrian entrance from cars. With the current setup we often have to wait behind cars paying.

**Response:** The proposed design will provide a sidewalk along the new entrance drive as well as a shared use path extending to the edge of the beach near where the existing driveway is located, either of which will accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists (per state law, bicyclists are required to yield to pedestrians).

## E. Water Distribution Line

1. **Comment:** Where will the two water lines be connected? Will the water line interfere with the Hawes Ave. culvert at the marsh?

**Response:** The water line connections are proposed at the existing fire hydrant south of the Yachtsman Condos and at the corner of Ocean Street & Hawes Ave., in front of the current driveway to Kalmus Beach. This project is not proposed to involve any work on Hawes Ave.

## F. Other Comments

1. **Comment:** Please require Yachtsman Condos to relocate their trash dumpster away from Ocean Street as it is unsightly.

**Response:** This is outside the scope of this project.

2. **Comment:** Will the old split rail fence along Veterans Park be replaced?

**Response:** Fencing is not included in the scope of this project except in areas where we need to modify the fence to accommodate the proposed shared use path.

3. **Comment:** I would like to see the access road to the Yacht Club added to this project.

**Response:** The access road serving Hyannis Yacht Club and Yachtsman Condos is not in the scope of this project; it is anticipated to be included in a future Veterans Park project.

4. **Comment:** There is a need for much more lighting inside Kalmus parking lot due to all types of illegal and illicit activities.

**Response:** Parking lot lighting is not included in the scope of this project.

5. **Comment:** I would love to see some consideration for bike parking at Kalmus beach. All we have now is one bike rack thrown in the sand behind a fence. It is hard to use for my kids and I. At the minimum bike parking should be on pavement. They should be the strong racks too, not flimsy racks. We could easily justify a bike rack near Ocean Street and one near the bath house.

**Response:** We are planning to add bike racks to the project if sufficient funding is available in the existing budget, or if available through a grant program.

6. **Comment:** I'm in favor of 3D paint to create the appearance of raised curbs along the sides of Ocean Street where parking lots preclude installing standard curbs.

**Response:** The Federal Highway Administration, which establishes standards that the Town is required to follow, has ruled-out this type of treatment within roadways as it can create driver confusion that could lead to crashes. The road shoulders along the parking lots in this area will function as crosswalks across driveways; therefore, we have proposed two parallel white lines, which constitute the minimum pavement markings for crosswalks. If additional conspicuity is desired, we can add "bars" to create ladder-style crosswalks or brick-colored non-reflective paint between the white lines.

7. **Comment:** How will pedestrians access the beach where the bath house is located? Will they walk through the entire parking lot merging with all the moving and parked cars? Why not build a walkway on the north side of the lot (fire hydrant side) where the majority of people will head toward the snack bar/beach house. I'm not suggesting eliminating those parking spots but putting a walkway (the cement is already there) and a barrier in front of those parking spaces. I'm sure some pedestrians traveling south may go right along the old entrance to use that side of the beach. My idea is to keep the walking public out of the parking lot. For safety sake please consider a walkway along the north side of the parking lot.

**Response:** This project will not alter existing pedestrian access to the beaches and amenities at Kalmus Beach once they are in the parking lot.

8. **Comment:** I think a town-wide 25 mph speed limit should be considered.

**Response:** The Massachusetts General Court (state legislature) recently passed a law aimed at making it easier to reduce 30 MPH speed limits to 25 MPH.