

Pedestrian, Biking and Hiking Committee  
Presentation to Belfast City Council for Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> 2010

## **1 Recommendations for new sidewalks/bike lanes**

The Mobility report mentioned several areas that needed new sidewalks and or bike lanes. Although some dangerous intersections mentioned in the report have been improved (Route 52/Route 1 and Route 141/Route 1) somewhat, most of what is mentioned in that report has not been touched. The report mentioned Main Street/Route 3 as a primary area for improvement.

### ***a Main Street***

We believe that the highest need for new sidewalks/bike lanes is in the Main Street/Route 3 corridor. Although the money may not exist to do the whole route from the top of Main street out to the Hutchinson center, we believe that planning should take into consideration that ultimately there should be sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the street(the sidewalks should go to Hutchinson center on the south side of Route 3 and to Crocker Road on the north ) that curb cuts should not be larger than necessary, and that it be safe to cross the Route 1 on- and off-ramps. Having a plan will undoubtedly save the city from having to redesign areas and would be cheaper in the long run. The number one priority should be to get people from Alto street or Lincolnville Ave under the viaduct to the businesses along Route 3.

That being said, we'd like to suggest that if the city eliminated the 6 parking spaces along side of the Family Dollar store/Camden National Bank plaza, a sidewalk and bike lane could be built along that side of the street and that people could park in the plaza.

Main street seems wide enough to have sidewalks and bike lanes on each side, down to and under the bypass. We believe, too, that the speed limit should be lowered to 25 mph along that stretch of road, and to 35 for some distance outside of the bypass.

### ***b Route 52***

There are now many destinations west of the bypass on Route 52; we have the Walsh Field ball fields, the dog park, an entrance to the Little River trail, Troy Howard Middle School, and the YMCA. We believe pedestrians and bikers should be able to safely reach those destinations. There should be signage for pedestrians and bikers indicating the location of those destinations.

### ***c Continuing Route 1 Sidewalk to the East Side Big Apple (at least)***

Walking on Route 1 is really dangerous; many people are seen walking to the store.

### ***d High Street, MacLeods side***

The sidewalk should continue from MacLeods at least to the area opposite Belfast Variety.

**e** *Beaver Street*

## **2 Recommendations for sidewalk repair**

In some cases there is overlap between wanting sidewalks repaired and needing new sidewalks and/or bike lanes at the same location. This is especially true of Route 52 from Route 1 to the YMCA. Some of you have copies of the spreadsheet which our group initially provided with the results of our evaluation. Norman Gilmore, a city employee, has resurveyed areas we marked as fair or poor; the decision of what to fix needs to be made not just on the condition of the sidewalk but also needs to take into consideration how much and by whom the particular sidewalk is used. It seems to be that perhaps we could get more “bang” for the buck if asphalt sidewalks were repaired at the same time as adjacent streets. There is a separate committee that is considering materials for the major repair/replacement of downtown sidewalks downtown sidewalks.

**a** *The sidewalk from Hatley Drive (Athena) to the YMCA*

Much of this sidewalk requires replacement just so it would be safe to walk on, or for bike riding for children.

**b** *Field Street between between High Street and Waldo Avenue.*

This side walk is narrower than 5 feet and is very broken up.

**c** *Waldo Avenue between Main Street and John Street*

**d** *Congress street between Miller and Main Street.*

## **3 Recommendations for developing new policy**

We believe that the city code should be expanded to include the consideration of pedestrian and biking issues when streets are being built or improved and when new areas are being developed.

## **4 Some of what we've done since the summer of 2008**

**a** *Performed detailed sidewalk condition survey*

As a result of the process (Thanks to Skip Pendleton and Joe Slocum) several utility poles were moved from the center of the sidewalk along Waldo avenue. At the request of Joe Slocum, a city employee, Norman Gilmore, has resurveyed what we indicated as bad and fair sidewalks.

**b** *Provided information to Eric Gallant/Comp Planning Committee*

We provided the mobility report and a map showing proposed trails and improvements to Eric Gallant, and recently provided the planning commission with an updated mobility report.

- c**     ***Revised / updated Mobility Report. (In process)***
- d**     ***Participated in coastal walkway workshop***
- e**     ***Met with Green Streets re tree/brush problems***