



# Draft 2016 Falmouth Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Town Council  
May 23, 2016



# Presentation



1. History
2. Process Followed
3. Recommendations
4. Feedback
5. Next Steps

# Plan History

- 1996 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- 2002 Trails Master Plan
- 2003 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
  
- 2016 Plan = Bicycling + Pedestrian + Trails
  - Interconnect Falmouth's pedestrian and bicycle network of trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, and paved shoulders.

# Progress Made since 2003

- Many improvements from plans have been completed
- Trail mileage has grown from 5 to 45 miles
- Where to go to next?



# 2016 Plan Elements

1. Reaffirm Falmouth's vision for walking and bicycling
2. Harness community's opinions and interests
3. Prioritize recommended improvements
4. Provide for continued community involvement in implementation
5. Develop plan for next 20 years

# Uses for 2016 Plan



- Guide for preparing annual capital improvement plans and road designs
- When reviewing future improvement requests from citizens and projects proposed by others

# Different Process Followed

- Staff-led approach
  - Town Manager
  - Public Works Director
  - Parks and Community Programs Director
  - Open Space Ombudsman
  - Director of Long Range Planning
- Consultant & Financial assistance
- CDC = sounding board



# Extensive Public Outreach

## Methods

- e-mail lists
- Ads
- Newspaper articles
- Town web site



## Round 1: May-July

What is important? Rating of existing facilities? Key destinations? Suggestions?

## Round 2: October-December

Test priorities for draft recommended actions?  
What did we miss?



# Who Participated in Round 1 and 2?



1. Stakeholders/experts = 20 + 10

Bicycle Coalition of Maine, Portland Trails, Healthy Casco Bay, Alpha One, East Coast Greenway, PACTS, NoPo Committee/Town of Yarmouth, MaineDOT, FHWA

2. Public Forums = 50 + 21

Mostly Falmouth residents

3. On-line surveys = 320 + 105

86% and 94% Falmouth residents


39- and 32-page reports with verbatim comments

# The Plan by the Numbers

# 1, 4, 19, 26, 132

**RECOMMENDED 20 YEAR VISION**

The vision for the 2015 Plan is the condition that Falmouth will strive for over the next 20 or so years.




The plan's vision is as follows:

Falmouth in 2035 is a place where walking and bicycling are promoted as safe, convenient, and pleasurable transportation modes for all people and all purposes, and where bicycle-pedestrian network connections to and from key destinations in the community have been improved.

**RECOMMENDED GOALS**

Several goals help achieve the plan's vision. They contain physical and non-physical strategies.




The plan's goals are to improve Town-wide pedestrian and bicycle conditions by:

- ◆ implementing promotional, educational, and behavioral strategies, and
- ◆ making physical improvement connections to:
  - a. Route 1 and Route 100 commercial areas and surrounding neighborhoods,
  - b. the Falmouth School Campus,
  - c. downtown Portland,
  - d. the existing major Cross Falmouth Trail Route,
  - e. several neighborhood pedestrian loops, and
  - f. several rural bicycle route loop

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Recommended Actions		
For additional information regarding the actions below, please see the "Notes to Recommended Actions" section that follows this chart.		
PRIORITY KEY: S=Short-Term (2-5 years), M=Mid Term (6-10 years), L=Long Term (11-20 years)   PRIORITY		
<b>General Management</b>		
1	Review: Create informal pedestrian/bicyclist stakeholder group comprised of Falmouth residents and other interested parties that meets 2-4 times per year with Town staff to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review walking and bicycling improvement progress.</li> <li>Provide "on the ground" walking and bicycling feedback to the Town.</li> <li>Assist with development of promotional, educational, and behavioral strategies for walking and bicycling.</li> <li>Assist with development of prioritization criteria for specific walking and bicycling projects.</li> </ul> Recommend new walking and bicycling projects.	5
2	Maintenance: Coordinate annual pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure maintenance with the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and others, as appropriate.	5
<b>Pedestrian Improvements</b>		
3	ADA: Make Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to entire sidewalk system, especially at crosswalk locations.	5
4	ADA: Incorporate the latest Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant crossing technologies, including audio warning devices and countdown signals, whenever a traffic signal is being upgraded.	5
5	Enhanced Accessibility: Install "enhanced accessibility" trails at various locations, such as Suckfish Brook (both units), River Point, and/or Community Park, with the goal to have at least one of these fully ADA compliant.	M
6	Trails: Link trails to sidewalk system, where feasible.	5
7	Trails: Secure or extend trail licenses or acquire permanent easements for trail segments located on private property.	5
8	Trails: Research Town-approved development projects with designated trails that have not been installed and pursue corrective action.	M



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Town Council  
May 23, 2016




# Recommended Vision



“Falmouth in 2035 is a place where walking and bicycling are promoted as **safe, convenient, and pleasurable** transportation modes **for all people and all purposes**, and where bicycle-pedestrian **network connections to and from key destinations** in the community have been improved.”

# Recommended Goals



1. Implement promotional, educational, and behavioral strategies
2. Make physical improvement connections to:
  - Route 1 and Route 100 commercial areas and surrounding neighborhoods,
  - the Falmouth School Campus,
  - downtown Portland,
  - the existing major Cross Falmouth Trail Route,
  - several neighborhood pedestrian loops, and
  - several rural bicycle route loops



## Recommended Actions

For additional information regarding the actions below, please see the "Notes to Recommended Actions" section that follows this chart.

PRIORITY KEY *S = Short Term (1-5 years), M = Mid Term (6-10 years), L = Long Term (11-20 years)*

PRIORITY

### General

#### Management

1	<p>Review: Create informal pedestrian/bicyclist stakeholder group comprised of Falmouth residents and other interested parties that meets 2-4 times per year with Town staff to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review walking and bicycling improvement progress.</li> <li>Provide "on the ground" walking and bicycling feedback to the Town.</li> <li>Assist with development of promotional, educational, and behavioral strategies for walking and bicycling.</li> <li>Assist with development of prioritization criteria for specific walking and bicycling projects.</li> <li>Recommend new walking and bicycling projects.</li> <li>Help communicate the Town's walking and bicycling efforts to others in the community.</li> </ul>	S
2	<p>Maintenance: Coordinate annual pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure maintenance with the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and others, as appropriate.</p>	S

#### Pedestrian Improvements

3	<p>ADA: Make Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to entire sidewalk system, especially at crosswalk locations.</p>	S
4	<p>ADA: Incorporate the latest Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant crossing technologies, including audio warning devices and countdown signals, whenever a traffic signal is being upgraded.</p>	S
5	<p>Enhanced Accessibility: Install "enhanced accessibility" trails at various locations, such as Suckfish Brook (both units), River Point, and/or Community Park, with the goal to have at least one of these fully ADA compliant.</p>	M
6	<p>Trails: Link trails to sidewalk system, where feasible.</p>	S
7	<p>Trails: Secure or extend trail licenses or acquire permanent easements for trail segments located on private property.</p>	S
8	<p>Trails: Research Town-approved development projects with designated trails that have not been installed and pursue corrective action.</p>	M



# Recommended Actions

- 47 recommended actions:
  - 19 Short Term (1-5 years)
  - 18 Mid Term (6-10 years)
  - 10 Long Term (11-20 years)
  
  - 24 pedestrian actions
  - 19 bicycle actions
  - 4 joint bicycle-pedestrian actions
- Focus areas:
  - Route 1 commercial area
  - Route 100 commercial area
  - Falmouth School Campus
  - Downtown Portland
  - Cross Falmouth Trail Route
  - Neighborhood Pedestrian Loops
  - Rural Bicycle Loops

# Pedestrian Improvement Map

## PROPOSED PHYSICAL PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

### General

- 5 Construct "Enhanced Accessibility" trails at Suckfish Brook (both units), River Point, Community Park
- 9 Investigate potential for bicycle-pedestrian trails in the Maine Turnpike Falmouth Spur corridor, powerline corridors, discontinued/abandoned roads

### Route 1 Commercial Area

- 18 Foreside Estates: Install pedestrian connection to Route 1
- 19 Lunt Road: Improve sidewalk across Interstate 295
- 20 Route 1 North: Consider pedestrian and bicycle recommendations from Ad Hoc Route 1 North Committee
- 21 Route 1: Consider pedestrian and bicycle recommendations from Route 1 Complete Street Study

### Route 100 Commercial Area

- 24 Gray Road: Install sidewalk from Portland city line to Mountain/Falmouth Road
- 25 Leighton Road: Install sidewalk from Gray Road to Brook Road
- 26 Falmouth Road: Install sidewalk from Gray Road to Winn Road
- 27 Leighton Road: Install sidewalk from Gray Road to Falmouth Road

### School Campus

- 29 Pan Am rail line: Install pedestrian-bicycle connection between Community Park and School Campus across rail line

### To Downtown Portland

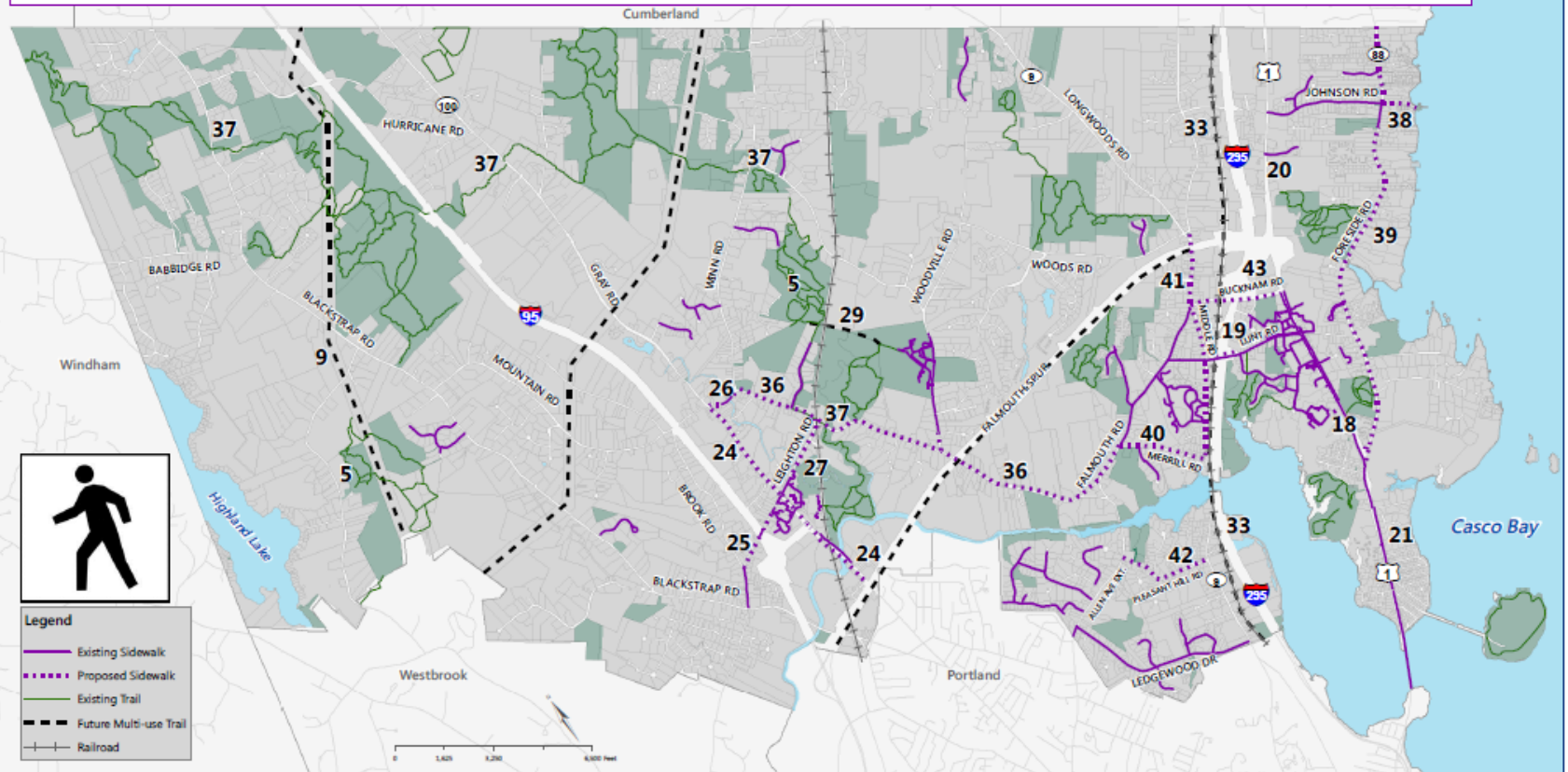
- 33 St. Lawrence & Atlantic rail line: Investigate the feasibility of creating a rail-with-trail to Portland through a regional public-private partnership effort for pedestrians and bicyclists

### Cross-Town Pedestrian Route

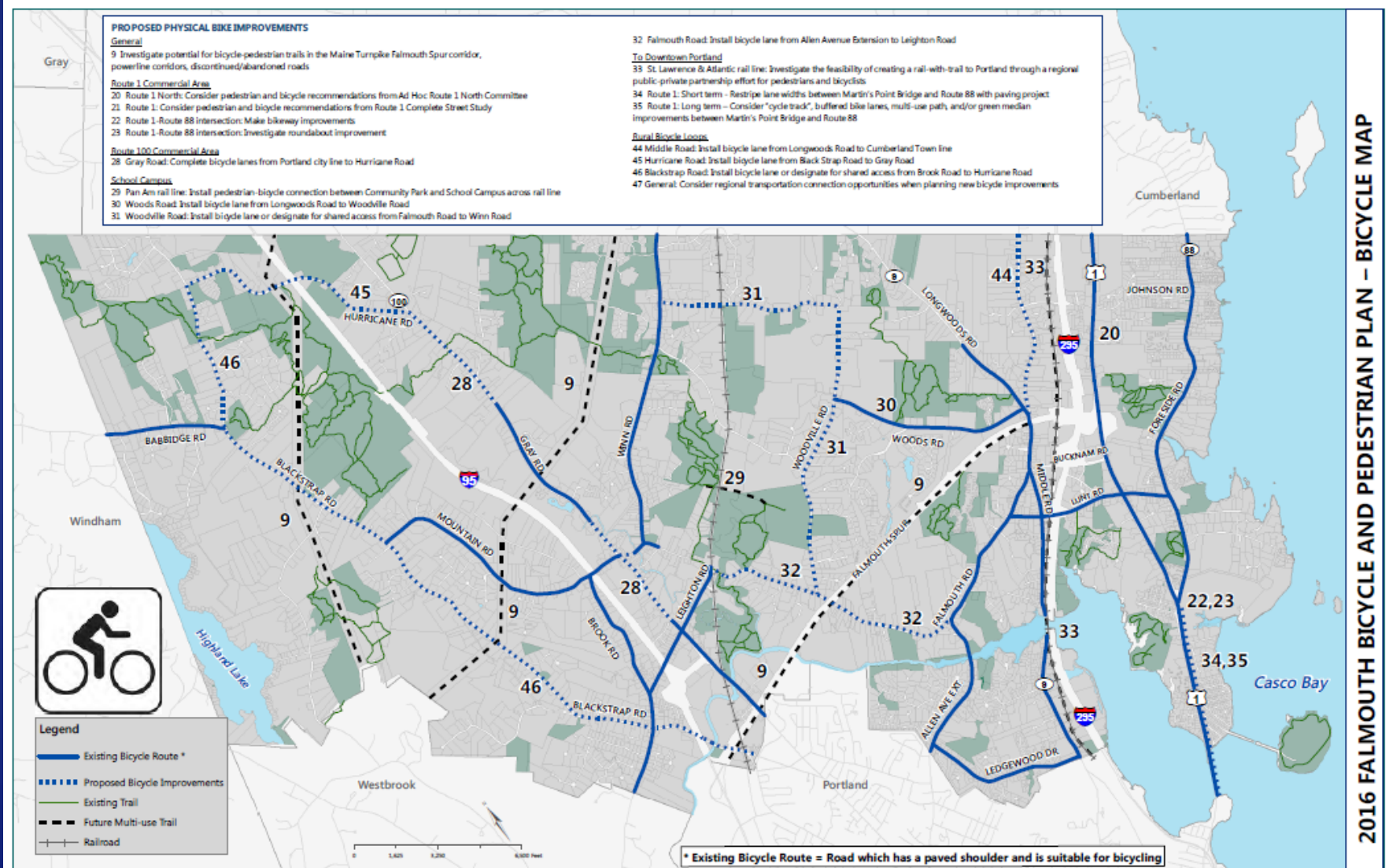
- 36 Falmouth Road: Install sidewalk from Winn Road to Merrill Road
- 37 Signage: Install warning signage at the following trail-road crossings:
  - Winn Road (Town Forest to parcel across the street)
  - Route 100 (between Hadlock & Hurricane Roads)
  - Blackstrap Road (near Happy Cats)
  - Falmouth Road (near East Branch Bridge)

### Neighborhood Pedestrian Loops

- 38 Town Landing Road: Install sidewalk from Route 88 to Town Landing
- 39 Foreside Road: Install sidewalk from Route 1 to Cumberland town line
- 40 Merrill Road: Install sidewalk from Falmouth Road to Middle Road
- 41 Middle Road: Install sidewalk from Merrill Road to Woods Road
- 42 Pleasant Hill Road: Install sidewalk from Allen Avenue Extension to Middle Road
- 43 Bucknam Road: Investigate sidewalk options from Middle Road to Route 1



# Bicycle Improvements Map





# Sample General Pedestrian Recommendations

- Make Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to sidewalk system
- Install “enhanced accessibility” trails with the goal to have at least one location fully ADA-compliant
- Secure trail licenses or acquire permanent easements for trail segments located on private property

# Sample General Bicycle Recommendations

- Restripe lane widths to increase paved shoulder widths where feasible
- Incorporate bicycle signage and pavement stenciling on all roads designated for bicycle use
- Install bicycle racks at Town-owned properties and facilities and bus stop locations



# Informal Stakeholder Group Recommendation

- Falmouth residents and other interested parties
- Meet 2-4 times per year with Town staff
  - Review improvement progress
  - Provide “on the ground” feedback
  - Assist with development of promotional, educational, and behavioral strategies
  - Assist with development of prioritization criteria for specific projects
  - Recommend new projects
  - Help communicate the Town’s efforts to the community



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Draft as recommended by CDC, March 25, 2016

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# Prioritizing the Actions

ATTACHMENT L

## Draft - Recommended 2015 Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan

Draft: December 15, 2015

Priority S = Short term (1-5 years), M = Mid term (6-10 years), L = Long Term (11-20 years)

Points

AVERAGE  
OF 3  
RATINGS

STAKEHOLDERS  
(10)

STAKEHOLDER  
DRAFT RATING

FORUM (21)  
FORUM  
RATING

ON-LINE  
SURVEY  
(105)

ONLINE  
RATING

### General

#### Management

1	Review: Create informal stakeholder group comprised of Falmouth residents and other interested parties that meets 2-4 times per year with Town staff to: Review improvement progress. Provide "on the ground" feedback to the Town. Assist with development of promotional, educational, and behavioral strategies. Assist with development of prioritization criteria for specific projects. Recommend new projects. Help communicate the Town's efforts to others in the community.
2	Maintenance: Coordinate annual maintenance with MaineDOT and others, as appropriate.

#### Pedestrian Improvements

3	ADA: Make ADA improvements to entire sidewalk system, especially at crosswalk locations.
4	ADA: Incorporate the latest ADA and MUTCD compliant crossing technologies, including audio warning devices and countdown signals, whenever a traffic signal is being upgraded.
5	Enhanced Accessibility: Install "enhanced accessibility" trails at the following locations: Suckfish Brook (both units) River Point Community Park
6	Trails: Link trails to sidewalk system, where feasible.
7	Trails: Secure trail licenses or acquire easements for trail segments that currently do not have official access permission.
8	Trails: Research Town-approved development projects with designated trails that have not been installed and pursue corrective action.
9	Trails: Investigate the potential for future bicycle-pedestrian trails in the following locations: Powerline corridors Maine Turnpike Spur Corridor Abandoned, discontinued roads
10	Trails: Consider regional connection opportunities when planning new trail improvements.
11	Bus stops: Install shelters and seating at bus stop locations.

#### Bicycle Improvements

12	Signals: Incorporate bicycle detection systems whenever a traffic signal is being upgraded.
13	Striping: Create a road inventory that identifies restriping of lane widths to increase paved shoulder widths where feasible. Coordinate with MaineDOT where required. Restripe annually accordingly.
14	Signage: Incorporate bicycle signage and pavement stenciling on all roads designated for bicycle use.
15	Striping: Increase pavement striping of "fog line" (i.e. painted line at edge of road) from 4 to 6 inches.
16	Parking: Install bicycle racks at Town-owned properties and facilities and bus stop locations.
17	Wayfinding: Participate in regional wayfinding signage plan for bicyclists sponsored by PACTS.

# Draft Final 2016 Plan

- Reviewed by CDC in March - some tweaks
- On May 2 e-mail to 250 participants
- Posted on Website
- News & Notices



# Feedback on Final Draft Plan

- 4 people commented:
  - Lower Route 1/Route 88 - support
  - Blackstrap Road/Mountain Road – make Short Term
  - Andrews Avenue – include
  - Middle Road/Bucknam Road - support

# Resolution for Council Consideration

## Suggestions for Town Council:

- Support vision of the 2016 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan
- Support not necessarily every recommended action
- Do not commit to the allocation of funding that will be required to implement any specific action
- Agree to use the plan as a reference document in developing:
  - Annual Work Plans,
  - operating and capital improvements budgets, and
  - Tax Increment Financing (TIF) development plans



# Resolution for Council Consideration

## Next Steps:

- Request Town staff to prepare draft Bicycle-Pedestrian Work Plan
  - Staff to recommend highest priority actions of the plan for implementation for:
    - 2016-2017 and
    - 2017-2018
  - Bring back to Council for Review



Thank you!

[http://www.falmouthme.org/  
bicycle-pedestrian-project](http://www.falmouthme.org/bicycle-pedestrian-project)

