CREATING A “VISION” FOR BLACKSTRAP ROAD

APRIL 5, 2018 ❖ FALMOUTH TOWN HALL
1. Project purpose
2. What we know so far about Blackstrap Road
3. What are YOUR concerns & suggestions?
4. Next steps
WHO IS HERE TONIGHT?

HOW, AND HOW OFTEN, DO YOU USE BLACKSTRAP ROAD?

HOW DID YOU LEARN OF THIS FORUM?
PROJECT PURPOSE: DEVELOP A CONCEPTUAL PLAN FOR BLACKSTRAP ROAD

Consultant TY Lin will:

• Analyze:
  ▪ road and pavement condition
  ▪ drainage and maintenance
  ▪ intersection alignments
  ▪ bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure

• Develop improvement options and cost estimates
• Recommend implementation steps

 ➤ ARTICULATE A “VISION” FOR BLACKSTRAP ROAD
LET'S TAKE A DRIVE...
At another entrance to Blackstrap Hill Preserve, just south of Mast Road.
Looking south. Rough pavement conditions near Red Oak Drive.

A sharp curve at the intersection with Hardy Road.
A 4-way stop at the intersection with Brook Road. This section was improved by the Town in 2014.

Looking south towards the bridge over the turnpike. This section was improved by the MTA in 2013.

Looking north towards the bridge over the Presumpscot River, with the bridge over I-95 in the background.
Looking south towards the Portland City line. The Town made improvements in this area in 2013.
I. THERE IS LOTS OF TRAFFIC ON BLACKSTRAP ROAD...

- Major north-south road connection
- Commuter traffic from Windham and Cumberland to Portland
- Popular with cyclists
2. PEOPLE ARE SPEEDING ON BLACKSTRAP ROAD!

March 2016 Speed Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed limit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speed limit</td>
<td>35 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average speed</td>
<td>36.16 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50th percentile speed</td>
<td>35.62 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85th percentile speed</td>
<td>40.49 mph</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum speed</td>
<td>61 mph</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Blackstrap Road receives more attention in terms of speed enforcement than any other road in Falmouth:
- 40% of speed enforcement time
- Last year: 6,000 traffic “contacts” by Falmouth PD on Blackstrap Road and nearby roads, $15,000 in fines
3. THERE ARE ACCIDENTS ON BLACKSTRAP ROAD

- About 5% of all crashes in Falmouth are on Blackstrap Road. They are typically the worst crashes.

- Road has rural, open feel. High speeds can be a contributing factor.

- Many accidents happen at the intersections:
  - Hardy Road
  - Mast Road
  - Brook Road
  - Babbidge Road
  - Mountain Road
4. MULTIPLE PARTIES TAKE CARE OF BLACKSTRAP ROAD...

- Falmouth = 2.2 miles (35%)
- MaineDOT = 4.1 miles (65%)
- Maine Turnpike Authority = two bridges, over Turnpike and Spur

.....RESULTING IN DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPROVEMENT AND NEED FOR COORDINATION

- Falmouth section = 30 feet wide road (11 ft lanes, 4 ft shoulders)
- MaineDOT section = 22-24 feet wide road (11-12 ft lanes, 0-1 ft shoulders)
# Recent & Upcoming Blackstrap Road Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>MDOT</td>
<td>Paving from just north of Mast Road to Rt. 100 in Cumberland.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>MDOT</td>
<td>Paving from Cohasset Way to Mountain Road.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>MTA</td>
<td>Bridge reconstruction over I-95 and bridge approaches to Hamlin Road.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Town</td>
<td>Widening and paved shoulders from Presumpcot River Bridge to Portland line.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Town</td>
<td>Widening and paved shoulders from Hamlin Road to Cohasset Way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Town</td>
<td>Condition assessment of Town and State roads in Falmouth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>PACTS</td>
<td>Condition assessment of PACTS roads (including part of Blackstrap) in Falmouth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>MDOT</td>
<td>Paving on MDOT sections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Town</td>
<td>Rehabilitation from Mountain Road to just north of Mast Road.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ROAD WORK

- MDOT projects
- Town projects
- MTA projects

2020
2018
2016
2014
2012
2010

Cumberland line
Hurricane Road
Babbidge Road
Mast Road
Mountain Road
Hardy Road
Brook Road
I-95
Presumpscot River

JURISDICTION (approx.)

- MDOT
- Town
- MDOT
- Town

MTA bridge (I-95)
MDOT bridge (Presumpscot River)
5. WHAT ABOUT OTHER PLANS?

Rural Bicycle Route Loops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bicycle Improvements</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle Road: Install bicycle lane from Longwoods Road to Cumberland Town line</td>
<td>M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hurricane Road: Designate for shared access from Blackstrap Road to Gray Road</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackstrap Road: Install bicycle lane or designate for shared access from Brook Road to Hurricane Road</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General recommendation: Consider regional transportation connection opportunities when planning new bicycle improvements.</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. NEED TO KEEP FINANCES IN MIND....

- Route 1 and 100 road projects: TIF funds, no tax rate impact
- Future MaineDOT contribution for Blackstrap Road?
- Blackstrap Road expense: Falmouth General Fund, tax rate impact
  
  Example: $4M project paid over 20 years will increase tax rate on average by $0.11+/-. (= average of $44/year for 20 years on $400K home)

- Improvements costing more than $1M require Falmouth voter approval...
7. THIS MAY TAKE SOME TIME...

“BEST” SCENARIO

• 2018: Concept Plan, Council Review, MaineDOT discussions
• 2019: Preliminary Engineering Plan
• 2020: Referendum Vote to Authorize Expenditures
• 2020-21: Final Engineering Plan, Bidding
• 2022-23: Construction?
NOW WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

WHAT ARE YOUR CONCERNS?

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE?
NOW WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

WHAT ARE YOUR CONCERNS?

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE?

8. SOME OPTIONS TO CONSIDER...

Bicycle safety & awareness signage

Freestanding speed reading sign

SHARED BICYCLE LANE MARKING “Sharrow”

Total Road Reconstruction
9. NEXT STEPS

APRIL-MAY:
• Consider forum feedback
• Do field work: what are the road constraints?
• Falmouth PD to conduct speed check
• Analyze traffic data
• Develop improvement options and costs
• Review with Town staff and MaineDOT

JUNE:
• Present at Forum 2 (date TBD): Determine option preferences

JULY:
• Present final recommendations to Town Council (date TBD)
• Discuss further with MaineDOT
THANK YOU!

DRIVE AND RIDE SAFE,

AND PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH...

1. Leave your email address for project updates
2. Check Town website: www.falmouthme.org
3. Follow the Town of Falmouth on Facebook and Twitter