The Town of Falmouth seeks the services of a consultant to assist with the development of a plan outlining a future vision for Blackstrap Road.

BACKGROUND
Blackstrap Road runs for 6.3 miles from the Cumberland Town line to the Portland City line. This important route serves as the primary arterial road for the west side of Falmouth, and offers commuting options to and from Portland for residents of Falmouth, in addition to Cumberland and Windham and beyond. The predominantly rural road is characterized by narrow shoulders, winding curves, and areas of poor pavement condition. The road is governed by multiple jurisdictions, including the Town, PACTS, and MaineDOT.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES
Develop a conceptual plan that:
- Articulates a vision for the Blackstrap Road corridor;
- Helps to identify, guide, and coordinate a range of future infrastructure investments along the corridor, including road and pavement condition, drainage and maintenance concerns, intersection alignments, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure;
- Provides options with regard to recommended infrastructure improvements, along with relevant cost estimates; and,
- Prioritizes implementation steps.

SCOPE OF WORK
The consultant will:
- Collect, analyze, and manage all relevant data. This data is expected to consist of: traffic volumes, crash history, bicycle volumes, pedestrian volumes, as-built plans, and right-of-way information.
- Inventory and assess the condition of all infrastructure elements in the project area. This is expected to consist of a visual field survey of existing conditions, including general pavement conditions, pavement and shoulder width, drainage/culvert location and condition, trees, driveways, regulatory signage, and horizontal and vertical geometry.
- Develop and evaluate conceptual improvement alternative plans based on available mapping and/or aerial photography. Such plans are expected to include plan views, cross sections, and cost estimates.
Incorporate, where appropriate, the following documents:
   
   - Town of Falmouth 2013 Comprehensive Plan, and
   - 2016 Falmouth Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan.

Participate in an initial Public Forum (meeting #1).

Present draft concepts in a second Public Forum (meeting #2).

Meet with staff as needed and develop a summary report including preferred concept plan, cross section(s), cost estimates, and prioritized implementation steps and schedule.

Attend a Council meeting to present the report’s recommendations.

Serve as liaison between the Town, MaineDOT, PACTS, and other stakeholder groups.

As this project is in an exploratory phase, the scope of work as described is conceptual in nature.

A kick-off public meeting is anticipated to be held in March 2018. Feedback from attendees will form the foundation of the project’s efforts, along with the Town’s comprehensive plan, and any other relevant documents.

PAST AND UPCOMING ROAD WORK

In 2009, the Town requested that Maine DOT address pavement conditions in State-maintained sections. Maine DOT repaved these sections with a 5/8 inch pavement overlay in 2010. This work is scheduled to be repaved again in 2018.

In 2013, the Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) rebuilt the I-95 Blackstrap Road bridge overpass, including a few hundred feet of roadway approach. The Town partnered with MTA and paid for some paving and guard rail upgrades that went beyond MTA’s initial scope of work. During that same year, the Town rehabilitated a section of Blackstrap Road between the Presumpscot River and the Portland City line. The road was widened and paved shoulders were created. The road was upgraded to meet federal, state, and PACTS guidelines, making it eligible for consideration of future funds.

In 2014, the Town reconstructed a section of Blackstrap Road between Hamlin Road and Cohasset Way, widening the road and adding paved shoulders.

In 2015-2016, the Town budgeted for the rehabilitation of a section of Blackstrap Road running approximately from Mountain Road to Mast Road. Funds are programmed for either fiscal year 2019 or 2020.

DELIVERABLES

The consultant shall produce the following work products: (Note that all materials must also be provided in appropriate electronic formats, such as Word, Excel, PDF, AutoCAD, GIS, etc.)

- Summary of relevant data;
- Inventory and condition assessment of current infrastructure;
- Concept options and cost estimates; and
- Final recommendations.