

NP&EDC

NANTUCKET PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



MEMORANDUM

TO: Libby Gibson
Town Manager

FROM: Mike Burns, AICP
Transportation Planner 

DATE: February 14, 2013

RE: Status of the In-Town Bike Path - Phase 1

This memo is to update you on the status of the In-Town bike path - Phase 1. As you may know, the project is divided into three phases, and this initial phase includes a shared use path along an old railroad right of way from the end of Washington Street Ext. to Orange Street, and a short section of bike lanes between Goose Pond Lane to Spruce Street (see attached map).

It is anticipated that the construction of the project (currently estimated at \$953,000) would be funded through the NP&EDC's TIP. Since federal dollars would be used, the design of the project needs to be reviewed and accepted by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). Currently, this project is in the preliminary (or 25%) design phase, meaning issues such as environmental permitting and right of way needs are being identified before the project progresses. MassDOT is currently coordinating with the engineer, VHB, to finalize a recommended preliminary design that avoids impacts to abutting salt marsh. Since the permitting process will be significant, the design at this stage is critical and will involve coordination with MassDEP and the Army Corps of Engineers. Once MassDOT recommends the project proceed to state/federal permitting and review, they will sanction a public hearing on island to collect public input on the project.

Although the construction could utilize federal and state funds, the design and permitting requirements are the responsibility of the Town and are currently being funded by a \$75,000 contribution from the Great Harbor Yacht Club (via the Nantucket Planning Board), and a \$45,000 contribution from the Dreamland Theatre for downtown bike projects (also via the Planning Board). Although these contributions have been sufficient to date, staff has requested supplemental funding be included in the Town's Capital Plan. Additionally, in the near future, staff will submit a recommendation to extend the contract with VHB, using the remaining local funding sources, to include the environmental permitting services that were purposely absent from the current design contract due to uncertainty about the permitting process. Once these tasks have been detailed, staff will submit a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen regarding the design contract.

Lastly, along with the environmental permitting, the right of way for the path will need to be certified by MassDOT before it is bid for construction. ReMain Nantucket has assisted this effort by already initiating research for all phases of this project, and staff has submitted a request to have Town Counsel review this material and assist with preparation of all documentation necessary to certify the right of way for the path.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please feel free to contact me.

