

**Town of Auburn Speed Management Plan, funded under the FY23 Shared Streets and Spaces Program Grant through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)**

The Town of Auburn Speed Management Plan will involve planning and implementation of a Speed Management Plan for the Town of Auburn to address pedestrian safety and vehicular speeding with a focus on targeted areas where youth and seniors walk and where vehicular traffic is high. This will include new and enhanced signage, speed enforcement equipment, crosswalks where needed, ADA improvements to existing crosswalks, and speed enforcement activities. The target areas are those in which there is a school, daycare facility, senior living facility, senior center, park and/or playground.

The primary goal is to improve our roadway infrastructure and signage through the implementation of various safety measures in order to reduce accidents and reduce vehicle speeding in areas of high pedestrian traffic. The benefit of the project will be enhanced pedestrian safety (with a focus on seniors, children and youth) and the reduction of vehicular speeding in areas of Town with high volume pedestrian activity such as schools, parks, playgrounds and senior facilities.

According to the Auburn Police Chief, the number one citizen complaint is vehicular speeding. Further, crash data statistics (IMPACT) show that Auburn's total crashes are significantly higher than most municipalities of similar size. The 10 years of closed crash data statistics from 2010-2019, plus open crash data from 2020 to present, show a total of 7,404 crashes in Auburn. Given that our schools, senior facilities, parks and playgrounds generate a high volume of pedestrian and vehicular activity, and since many of the primary and secondary roads that service these facilities are roadways on which we receive citizen complaints of speeding, the Town intends to use these grant funds to enhance our signage, crosswalks and speed detection equipment and speed enforcement activities.

The Auburn Police Department is committed to traffic safety and enforcing the motor vehicle laws of the Commonwealth. Numerous busy roadways run through Auburn to include Route 20, Route 12, Interstates 90, and 290/395. In a normal year, we investigate an average of 314 crashes (IMPACT statistics) requiring full reports and another 100-150 that are very minor. As a result, a significant portion of an Auburn Police Officer's time is spent interacting with motorists and assisting operators at crash scenes.

As a department of 38 sworn personnel, we have 1 full time officer dedicated to traffic problems, specifically speeding and mobile phone use. This places our dedicated traffic enforcement hours at 40 per week. Our patrol officers are also assigned to traffic enforcement when not handling calls for service. We would estimate that at least 4 hours per day are spent on traffic enforcement by the patrol division. We have two remote enabled speed/message trailers that are deployed weekly in response to calls from the public or when we see an increase in crashes in a certain area. More signage and speed control equipment is needed in order to reduce accidents and speeding, especially in areas of high volume pedestrian activity such as schools, senior facilities, playgrounds and parks.

**Data obtained from Massachusetts IMPACT.**

**Is the project intended to provide improvements to infrastructure used by children to get to and from school (within two miles) or other youth destinations? If yes, please list schools or destinations.**

**(Required)\***

Yes

Auburn Middle School – 9 West Street Auburn MA 01501

Auburn High School – 99 Auburn Street Auburn MA 01501

Swanson Rd. Intermediate School – 10 Swanson Road Auburn MA 01501

Pakachoag Elementary School – 110 Pakachoag Street Auburn MA 01501

Bryn Mawr Elementary School – 35 Swanson Road Auburn MA 01501

Pakachoag Day Care Center – 141 Auburn Street Auburn MA 01501

Lemansky Park: playground, park, skateboard park, ball field – 417 Oxford Street North Auburn MA 01501

Daniel S. Horgan Memorial Skating Rink – 403 Oxford Street North Auburn MA 01501

Boyce St. Tot lot (playground) - 134 Boyce Street Auburn MA 01501

Pappas Recreation Complex - 203A Pakachoag Street Auburn MA 01501

**Is the proposed project intended to provide improvements to infrastructure used by seniors to reach senior destinations (within one mile)? If yes, please list destinations. (Required)\***

Yes

Lorraine Gleick Nordgren Senior Center – 4 Goddard Drive, Auburn MA 01501

Pakachoag Village (Housing Authority senior/disabled housing): 275-277 Pakachoag Street, Auburn, MA 01501

Pheasant Court (Housing Authority family housing): 1-21 Pheasant Court, Auburn MA 01501

Stoneville Heights (Housing Authority Senior/Disabled housing): 200 Oxford St. North, Auburn, MA 01501

Kateri Tekakwitha Senior Housing Facility: 1 Kateri Way, Auburn MA 01501

**Does the proposed project support safe routes to open space and/or parks? If yes, please list the name of the facilities. (Required)\***

Yes

Lemansky Park: playground, park, skateboard park, ball field, dog park: 417 Oxford Street North, Auburn MA 01501

Boyce Street Tot lot (playground): 134 Boyce Street, Auburn MA 01501

Pappas Recreation Complex and Playground: 203A Pakachoag Street, Auburn MA 01501

**Is the proposed project located in the municipality's Housing Choice designation area, will the project benefit from an Opportunity Zone Fund investment, or has the municipality implemented economic development best practices through the Community Compact program? (Required)\***

Yes

The Town's Economic Development Plan was created through funding from the State's Community Compact Program. The Plan identifies strategies to create pedestrian walkways, safe vehicular and pedestrian access to facilities, parks and other open spaces. The Town has implemented several strategies. This project will implement some of those identified strategies and goals.

**Description of project implementation including staff roles and key milestones: (Required)\***

The project will involve the Department of Public Works, the Auburn Police Department, and the School Department. The School Facilities Director will work with the Police Chief and the Department of Public Works Director and Assistant DPW Director on the location of signage and schedule of school events. The Police Chief will be responsible for ensuring implementation and monitoring of the speeding equipment and the enforcement of vehicular speeding. The DPW Director and Assistant Director will be responsible for signage and roadway improvements including crosswalks and ADA upgrades.

Key milestones will be the bidding for roadwork, the procurement of equipment, and the traffic enforcement plan of the Police Department.

**The Shared Streets and Spaces Program requires municipalities to provide notice or opportunity for public engagement related to the proposed project. Please confirm whether this has occurred. If yes, please list engagement activities. (Required)\***

Yes

The Town Manager informed the Board of Selectmen at their February 28th meeting of the proposed Speed Management Plan and Shared Streets Grant. The Town also posted the concept of the proposed plan on its social media pages and website. If the grant is received, the Town will conduct education and outreach to the public with project specifics.

The location of speed management equipment and road improvements is entirely on town-owned property. However, there are many State roadways that run through the Town including Routes 12 and 20, Interstate I-290 and Mass Turnpike I-90.

The Daniel Horgan Skating arena is located on abutting property to Lemansky Park. Signage and speed control measures in that vicinity will benefit the state-owned skating rink as well.