

Town of Bowdoinham Transportation Vision Statement

Community Vision

The Town will seek to protect and enhance its classic, small-town New England village center and its rural surroundings, commercial areas and the waterfront, while at the same time manage development to preserve the rural character of the community. Bowdoinham will also seek to enhance the strong sense of community that makes the Town a special place in which to live.

Transportation Goals

Maintain and improve the quality of life for all Bowdoinham residents by providing safe village streets and rural roads, a walkable village, trail systems, bike routes, paddling opportunities, access to public transportation and rail facilities, as well as viable connections between transportation modes, while at the same time protecting the quality of the Town's natural resources.

Guiding Principles

1. **Long-range planning.** Plan for long-range, cost-effective ways to provide convenient, safe, environmentally sound transportation improvements.
2. **Community Involvement.** Encourage community participation in both the planning and implementation process.
3. **Collaboration.** Work with other agencies and groups and surrounding communities, where appropriate, to implement transportation improvements.
4. **Grant opportunities.** Apply for grants wherever possible to help defray the costs of transportation improvements.
5. **Environmental Stewardship.** Address the management of the storm water to protect surface water quality. Design stream crossings to maintain fisheries as well aquatic and riparian wildlife habitats.

Transportation Actions

1. **Safe village streets and rural roads.** Continue to improve village streets, local roads and state routes to achieve a safe and efficient road system.

As the population of the town increases, it is necessary to enhance our road system so that we may maintain our small town atmosphere. It is important for our road system to accommodate both vehicle and recreational uses, without compromising safety, and at the same time effectively managing the traffic flow, noise, and speed.

- A. **Long-range capital improvement plan.** Continue to implement, and periodically update, the Town's long-range, 15-year capital improvement plan for roads, and continue to maintain and improve the Town's gravel roads.

- B. Village streets.** Provide curbing, sidewalks and storm drains as village streets are rebuilt.
- C. Paved shoulders.** Plan for and provide adequate shoulders along roads where there is recreational use by walkers, bikers, horseback riders and other users.
- D. Visibility/safety improvements.** Improve visibility and safety, where needed, at intersections such as Ridge Road/River Road (Route 24), Carding Machine Road/River Road and the White Road/River Road intersection.
- E. Guard rails.** Install, upgrade and/or expand guard rails where needed and appropriate.
- F. Main Street speeding.** Explore opportunities to manage speeding on Main Street.
- G. Municipal lighting.** Periodically assess the need for enhanced municipal lighting.

2. Walkable Village. Work to achieve a pedestrian friendly village.

When Main Street is attractive, safe and pedestrian-oriented, it becomes the healthy heart of a town, economically and socially. It acts as a magnet, drawing people in and supporting the local economy. An attractive Main Street preserves our Town's character and history, offers an enhanced quality of life and social connectedness.

- A. Planning.** Plan for adequate, safe places for people to walk using sidewalks, trails, paved shoulders or a combination of all three, as appropriate. Plan for adequate drainage and mitigation of environmental impacts.
- B. Historic Main Street sidewalks.** Re-establish Bowdoinham's historic sidewalks, where appropriate.
- C. Safety and connectivity between Community destinations.** Establish places for people to walk between major community destinations such as the school, recreational fields, library, Town Office, Maily Waterfront Park, and stores.

3. Trail systems, biking, paddling. Continue to advocate and work towards improving the availability and safety of places for walking, biking and paddling in Bowdoinham.

A diverse offering of trails for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, snowmobiling, etc. is important to provide outdoor recreational opportunities and foster an appreciation for our environment. Providing these trails or "pathways to healthy living" will also provide citizens with the ability to travel without the use of a vehicle.

Additionally, Bowdoinham's central location provides a unique opportunity to connect our trails into regional trail systems, such as the East Coast Greenway, which extends from Florida to Calais, Maine. Linking Bowdoinham's trails to regional trail systems would provide us with access to more extensive recreational opportunities, while at the same time, providing us with another way to attract visitors. Making Bowdoinham a destination

for visiting hikers, paddlers, and bikers would increase revenue for local businesses and enhance an eco-tourism based economy.

- A. **Planning.** Continue to plan for biking, walking and paddling improvements throughout the community.
- B. **Trail systems.** Continue to develop trail systems.
 - Explore development of the boardwalk called for in the Waterfront Plan extending from Maily Park northeast and up the West Branch of the Cathance River
 - Continue to work on the development of the local trail systems, working to create loops and connections
 - Work with Topsham to create trail connections and link Bowdoinham's trails to the East Coast Greenway and the New England Greenway
 - Work with Richmond to create trail connections and link Bowdoinham's trails to the Kennebec River Rail Trail and the East Coast Greenway.
 - Work with Bowdoin to create trail connections to the west.
- C. **Paddling facilities.** Continue to work on providing access to water bodies for canoes, kayaks and other non-motorized watercraft.
- D. **Bike routes.** For the safety of motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and horseback riders:
 - Continue to encourage Maine DOT to install paved shoulders on Route 24 for the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.
 - Explore other roads that may need shoulder upgrades to improve overall safety.
- E. **Snowmobile trails.** Support the improvement of snowmobile trails and explore options for multi-use, seasonal trails.

4. **Intermodal Connectivity.** Encourage and support intermodal options.

Offering affordable options for alternative transportation will enhance the quality of life for all residents; and particularly, those who are unable to drive vehicles. It is essential in a rural community, that all residents have access to fundamental service centers.

- A. **Mass Transit.** Encourage mass transit opportunities
 - **Options.** Look into mass transit options such as buses and carpooling to save energy and reduce traffic pressure on highways.
 - **Service center connections.** Encourage convenience through connections to service centers with regular routes.
- B. **Rail facilities.** Support and encourage the use of existing railroad infrastructure to ease congestion and reduce heavy loads on highways. Ensure that as

railroad infrastructure is improved, there are commensurate improvements to rail crossings.

- **Train station.** Support the development of a train station/platform in Bowdoinham, possibly at Maily Waterfront Park that would allow a link to the Brunswick to Rockland and Brunswick to Portland passenger rail service.
- **Rail service.** Support State efforts to develop viable freight and passenger rail service that includes Bowdoinham.

5. Amenities. Support transportation-related amenities.

Transportation amenities will enhance the visual impression of the Town. Providing scenic overlooks would provide a means for people to enjoy the natural beauty of the area. Establishing a scenic byway would assist in the economic growth of local businesses.

- A. Scenic byway.** Explore options with Richmond, Gardiner and Topsham for establishing a scenic byway designation for Route 24.
- B. Scenic view opportunities.** Explore opportunities to preserve and enhance scenic views of Merrymeeting Bay, farms and pastures.
- D. Amenities.** Consider making more attractive entryways into town including signage, flower plantings and street trees.

Adopted this date: April 29, 2008

Bowdoinham Select Board

Wayne Dorr, Chair

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