

Committee on Roads and Right-of-Way

Draft Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Meeting Type: Hybrid

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:14 PM by Lee Saperstein, Chair of the Committee on Roads and Right-of-Way.

Members Present: Phil Smith, Edward Gillum, Nat Lowell, Allen Reinhard, Drew Patnode, Lee Saperstein (Chair), Nelson Eldridge, Snooky Eldridge, Bob Bystrowski, Gary Roberts, Mike Burns, Gordie Auchterlonie

Members Absent / Not Checked In: Rick Atherton, Rob Rennie, Tracy McDonald.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the current meeting was reviewed. No items were added or modified.

3. Approval of April Minutes

Edward Gillum noted one correction to the April minutes regarding the spelling of "West Coe" (correctly spelled W-E-S-C-O, not West). The minutes were approved as corrected following a motion by Snooky Eldridge, seconded by Allen Reinhard, and a unanimous roll call vote.

4. Committee Business & Future Scheduling

The Chair noted that due to upcoming town restructuring, July will mark the end of the Committee on Roads and Right-of-Way. In the interim, it was agreed to maintain consistency and suggest to the Town Manager that future committee iterations continue meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM.

5. Transportation Program Updates (Mike Burns)

Mike Burns presented updates on the Draft FFY 2027–2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):

- TIP Alignment: For 2026, the NPEDC is flexing \$420,000 from highway funds to transit. Gary Roberts (NRTA) confirmed this will fund Phase 3 improvements, including real-time transit info inside vehicles and better route signage at the Bus Station.
- Long-Term Projects: The Milestone Rotary project is prioritized for construction by 2031 or sooner under state modernization programming. Other eligible future works include the Milestone Road widening, the Nobadeer Farm Road intersection, and a side path along Wauwinet Road.
- UPWP Budget: The FFY 2027 planning budget is set at \$343,799 (a 2% increase).

Key tasks include developing a travel demand forecast model, implementing traffic safety plan priorities, and continuing Complete Streets design evaluations (like the Pleasant Street sidewalk framework).

- Public Review & Action: The TIP public review period concludes shortly, with an NPEDC vote scheduled for next Thursday. The draft UPWP will be out for public review from June 1 to June 22, with final action on June 22. The Pleasant Street project will go before the Select Board on June 3.

6. Real Estate & Encroachment Issues

- Stone Alley: Bob Bystrowski reported that a detailed boundary plan is being drafted. Representatives from the real estate office will coordinate meetings with abutting homeowners to discuss maintenance responsibilities, specifically regarding adjacent retaining walls. Invasives management in the area remains well under control.
- Encroachment & Licensing Policy: Discussions highlighted the potential of transitioning notifications from physical certified letters to digital options. The committee discussed implementing temporary 5-year licensing structures for historic or existing non-permanent encroachments (e.g., friendship stairs, hedges) when properties transfer ownership, ensuring clear documentation on deeds/plot plans without forcing disruptive removals. Summer interns will be utilized to begin a systematic survey of elements requiring licensing.

7. Public Way Monuments Project (Allen Reinhard)

Allen Reinhard reviewed the historical project status, noting that 46 public way monuments have been installed across the island to date. Current updates include:

- An inventory of six to eight engraved monuments remains ready for deployment near the former police chief's building.
- Immediate replacements are required for two cracked/broken monuments at the end of Madaket Road and one older monument on the boundary of the Johnson property along Alberta Avenue.
- The committee will compile a list of replacement coordinates and review the future viability of flat-viscous markers for specific town layouts once upright monument installations are fully distributed.

8. Public Infrastructure & Maintenance (Drew Patnode)

Drew Patnode provided status updates on major seasonal engineering works:

- Surfside Area Project: Binder course paving is fully complete on Lovers Lane (down to the Boulevard) and Monahansett Road (Airport to Okorwaw). Drainage adjustments and paving on Dave Kim and the intersection of Rugged Road are complete. Traffic calming elements, including a raised intersection at Lovers/Rugged and a median island at 14 Lovers Lane, will be finished shortly.

- Line Striping & Resurfacing: Island-wide line striping (double-yellows, fog lines, lettering, crosswalks) is scheduled via contractor starting June 9. Recent annual resurfacing packages on Cliff Road, York Street, New Lane, Polpis Road, and Old South Road (from Nobadeer Farm to the airport gate) are complete.
- Summer Maintenance: Crews are transitioning to high-season public beach access clearing and vegetation trimming, beginning with an overgrown public access way (37c) off Squam Road.

9. NRTA Seasonal Services (Gary Roberts)

NRTA routes are ramping up summer schedules, running until 10:00 PM / 10:30 PM. A new year-round, grant-funded route serving Bartlett Farm is being finalized with the DPW for bus stop and bench placement, targeting a launch by the end of June. Safe vehicle turnaround constraints currently restrict extension further down toward Cisco.

10. Harbor Plan & Chapter 91 Updates (Phil Smith)

Phil Smith reported on the Harbor Plan Update Committee meeting:

- The Massachusetts DEP has reviewed the draft plan following recent state legal updates. Edits made are primarily technical and the draft is being finalized for submission to the Select Board for public hearing review. Following local approval, it will proceed to the Environmental Monitor and a state-led public hearing on Nantucket.
- The state has fully digitized Chapter 91 record-keeping. A public portal is now active and mapping all local harbor licenses. Per DEP recommendations, files will undergo joint town-state reviews every six months.

11. Other Business & Public Comments

Nat Lowell initiated a discussion on town speed limits, advocating for 15 MPH signage on narrow avenues to modify driver psychology, despite state statutes defaulting minimum enforcements to 25 MPH. Concerns were also raised regarding unsecured commercial loads on vehicle roofs during high-season traffic.

12. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 4:00 PM, which will serve as the final session for the committee. Following a motion by Nelson Eldridge, seconded by Allen Reinhard, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 PM.