### **Planning Board**

Public Meeting on Roads/Bikeways/Traffic Calming November 28, 2018

Attendees. Board members: Jenks, Eiseman (recording), Laurie, Dewey, Wilson

Others: Becky Basch and Corrine Meise-Munn (PVPC presenters), Joe Larson, Bruce Klotz,

Kristin DeBoer, Ann McNeal, Tilman Lukas, John Trickey, Fran Ozereko, Jonathan Woodbridge, others not recorded.

### Topics covered in the presentation.

Overview: This effort is the result of a grant for Technical Assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission with the intention of creating a conceptual design for the West Pelham Village Center to address traffic speed and traffic calming possibilities as well as to begin planning for possible bike and pedestrian access to the Village Center. In 2016 the average daily traffic count (ADT) was between 1900 to 2000 vehicles contrasted with Daniel Shays Highway at 4500 to 7500; these numbers have an affect upon what designations the state will permit as well as the feasibility of some sorts of businesses wanting to locate in Pelham.

For an outline of the topics and information presented, see the accompanying document entitled Walking, Biking and Traffic Calming in West Pelham Village Center.

### **Comments/Breakout Groups**

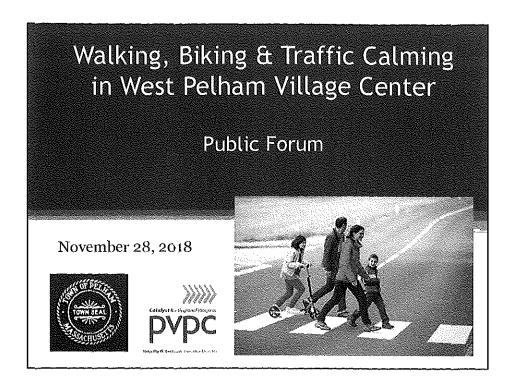
The audience expressed interest having a traffic light and questioned the designation of "thickly settled." Phased vs. prioritized installation of speed tables was discussed. A clearly perceived need was expressed to slowing speeds to 20 or 25 mph in the Mixed Use District and for an enforced speed limit of 35 mph for the remainder of Amherst Road in the Village Center District, beginning with a slow down from Arnold

and/or Jones Road and signage from there to the town line with appropriate notice and speed table design. Member Wilson heard the following additional comments during the breakout groups: the town needs to get it right before development starts; the town has a moral obligation not to endanger pedestrians and cyclists who use the road; the Town has a responsibility not to put pedestrians in harm's way by placing sidewalks and cross walks on a dangerous road.

It was noted that a Complete Streets prioritization project requires engineer being hired to look at all forms of transportation. Eiseman observed that money would be an issue and that more deliberation would be needed but that the first step should be a traffic study to understand just what is going on. Many seemed to agree that speed reduction was a critical first step toward making the Village Center work to reach the vision of a "real" center for the town.

The PVPC consultants will provide a report and map of the possible designs for further discussion and potential action steps.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm with some attendees remaining to discuss issues informally.



# Agenda

- 1. Overview & Purpose of tonight's meeting
- 2. Existing Conditions
  - a) Traffic Counts, Crash Data & Traffic Speeds
  - b) Road Widths & Right-of-Way (ROW)
- 3. Traffic Calming in West Pelham Conceptual Plan based on new Village Center Zoning standards
- 4. Planning for walking and biking townwide
- 5. Comments/Breakout Groups

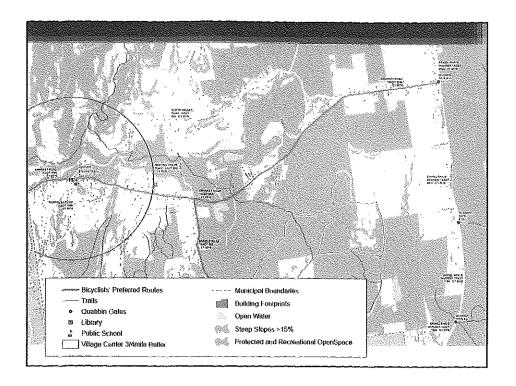
### Overview

2018 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Grant

- Review streets & traffic data for bike and pedestrian needs in Pelham
- Prepare conceptual design for West Pelham Village Center to address traffic speed and walkability; use standards included in Village Center Zoning
- Gather feedback on priorities for roadway modifications for bicycle and pedestrian use

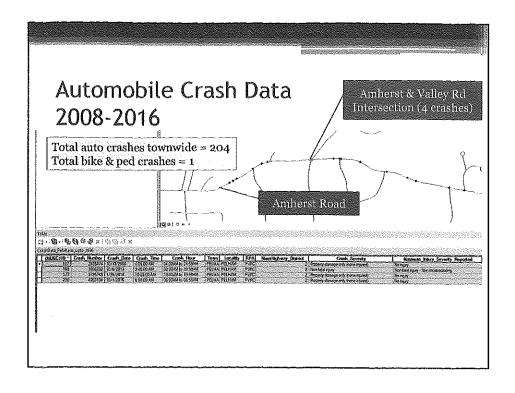
## **Existing Conditions**

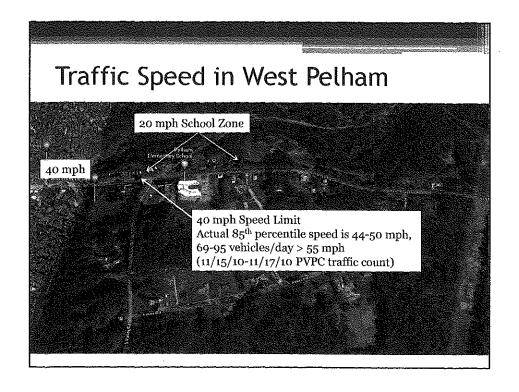
- Primarily rural roads with low Average Daily Traffic (ADT) counts – exceptions on Rte 202 & Amherst Road
- Low numbers of crashes (1 bike & ped, 204 auto spread out on town roads over last 5 years)
- Traffic traveling at high speed on Amherst Rd downhill into West Pelham Village Center
- No bike lanes or sidewalks
- Challenging topography and visibility for biking and walking on roads

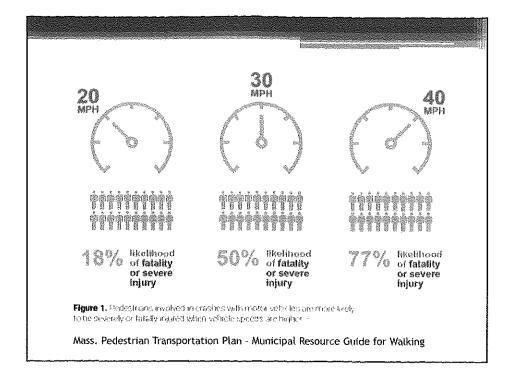


# Average Daily Traffic (ADT)

- Highest counts on Rte. 202/Daniel Shays
   Highway 4,500 7,500 ADT (CY 2016)
- Amherst Road -
  - 1,900-2,000 ADT in 2016 (special Mass DOT count)
  - 3,000 ADT West of Valley Road, 5,000 East of Valley Road (PVPC count in 2010)
- Harkness Road ~ 1,000 ADT
- Most other roads ~500 ADT







# Village Center Conceptual Plan Goals:

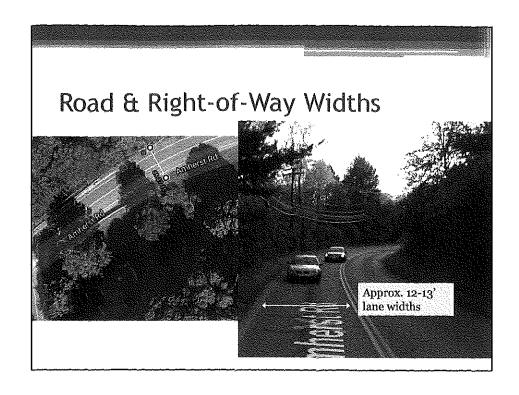
- 1. Reduce traffic speed
- 2. Create a walkable village center with connections to neighborhood streets, school, library
- 3. Work within parameters of new Village Center Zoning
- 4. Work within existing Town Right-of-Way and road widths

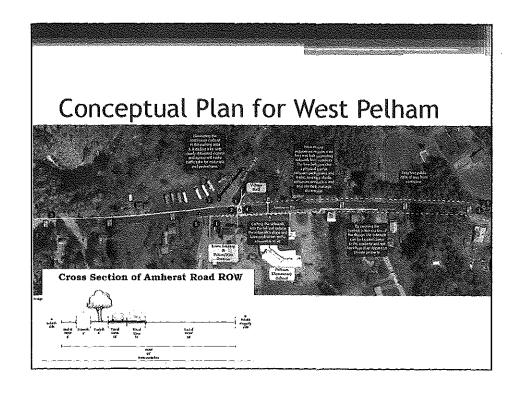
### Village Center Zoning

- H. Site Design and Landscaping
- (3) Sidewalk Requirements for the Village Center Mixed-Use District:
  - (a) A minimum 5' wide sidewalk and/or side path shall be built along the full width of all parcels in the Village Center Mixed-Use District... Sidewalks shall be constructed within the road right of way where possible.

# Village Center Zoning (cont.)

- (b) A tree belt that is **at least six feet wide** shall be provided between a sidewalk and the street edge.
- (c) **Street Trees.** Street trees shall be planted at regular intervals within the street right-of-way parallel to the street along all streets. When possible, street trees shall be planted in the tree belt. Spacing of street trees shall be determined by the species chosen, with the intent that street trees will form a complete canopy upon maturity.

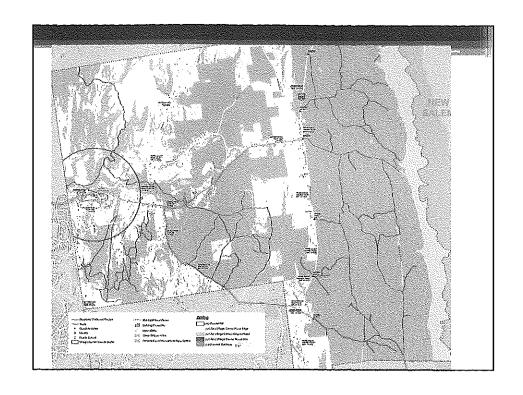


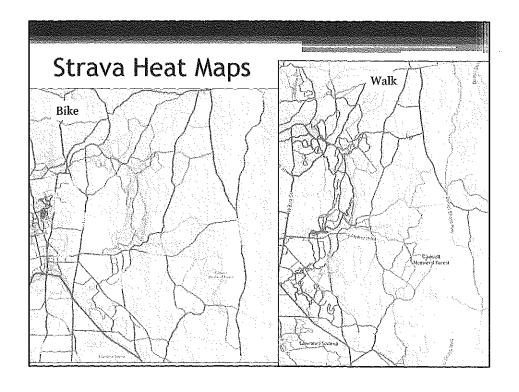


# **Questions & Comments**

### Planning for Biking & Walking in Pelham

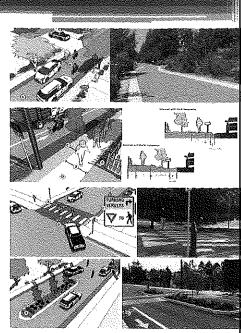
- 1. Identify routes for recreation and/or commuting by walking or biking
- 2. Identify where road modifications are needed to encourage safe biking & walking
- 3. Consider adopting a Complete Streets policy
  - Apply for funding for a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan (\$38K)
  - Apply for funding for priority projects (~\$400K)

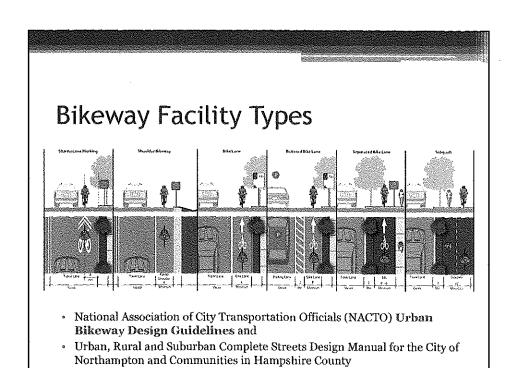


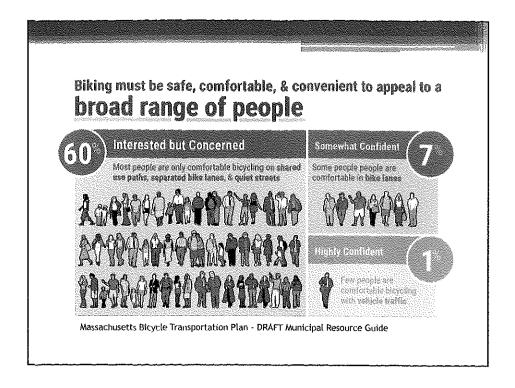


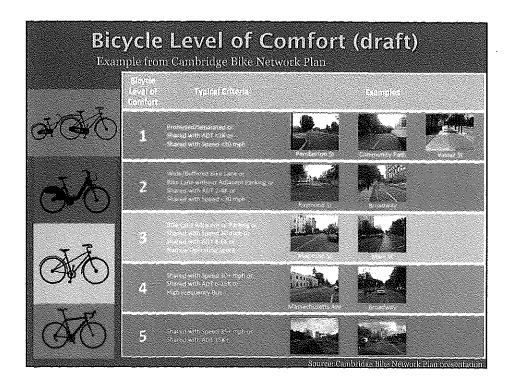
# Pedestrian Facility Types

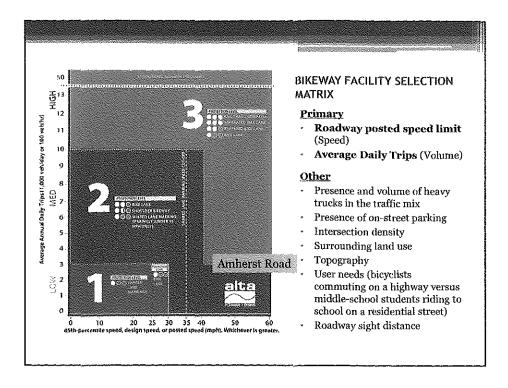
- Local Shared Roadway
- Sidewalk
- Raised Crosswalk
- Center Islands



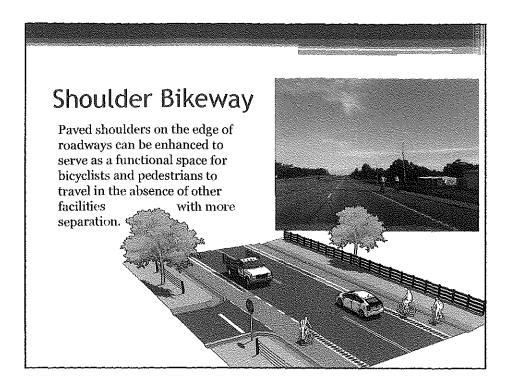


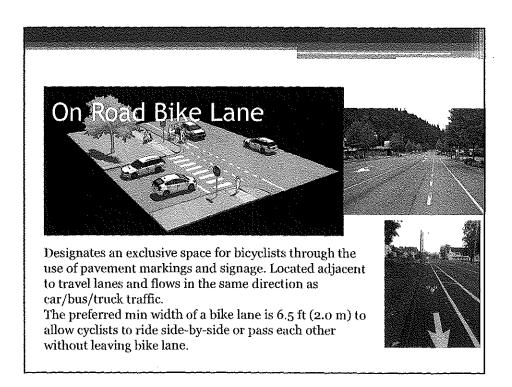


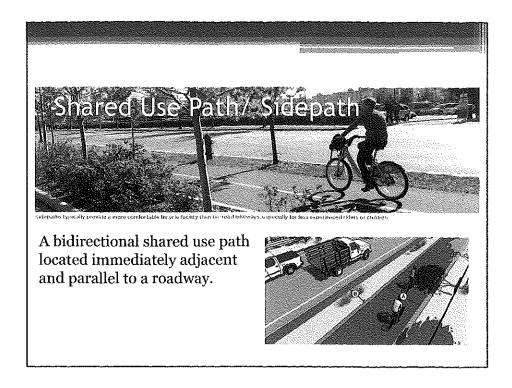


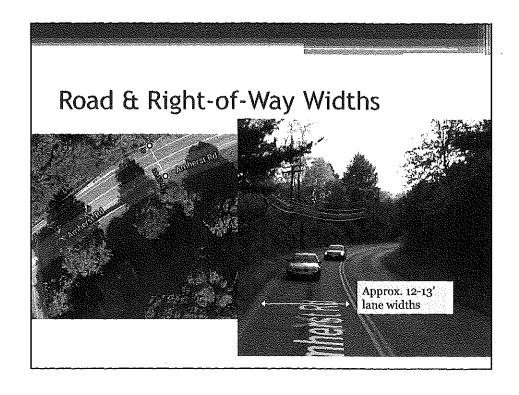


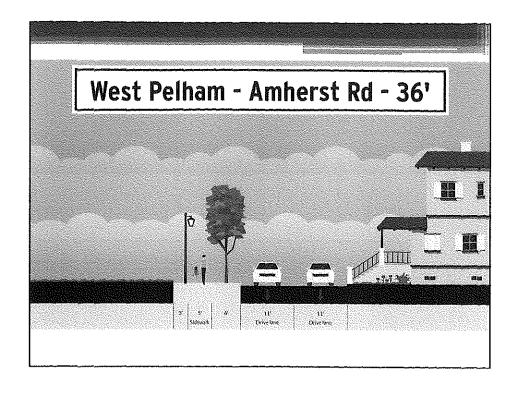
# Yield Roadway/Shared Lane Marking A yield roadway is designed to serve pedestrians, bicyclists, and motor vehicle traffic in the same slow-speed travel area. Yield roadways serve bidirectional motor vehicle traffic without lane markings in the roadway travel area.

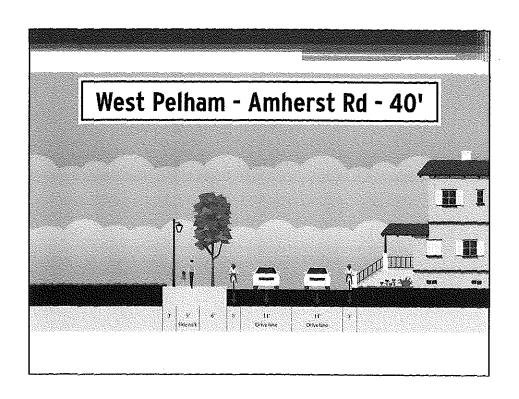


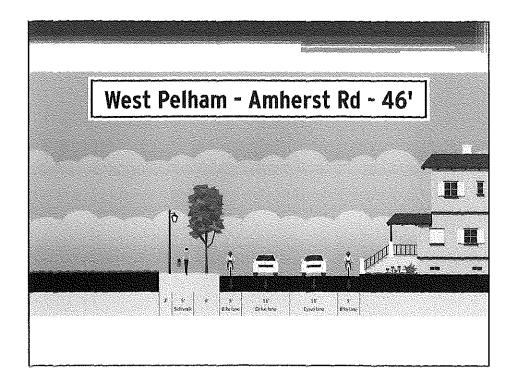












## **Break-out Groups**

### **Instructions**

- 1. Mark desired routes for Biking (BLUE) and Walking (RED) on large map. Use Post-Its for comments. (10 min)
- 2. Add comments to Conceptual Plan of Village Center. Use Post-Its for comments. (10 min)
- 3. List Priority Streets/Sections for Biking & Walking
- 4. Report back (10 min)

### Contact info & Resources

- Becky Basch bbasch@PVPC.org
- Corrin Meise-Munns cmeisemunns@PVPC.org
- MassDOT Municipal Resource Guide for Walkability https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/09/17/MunicipalResourcesGuideForWalkability\_2018-08-24.pdf
- MassDOT Municipal Resource Guide for Bikeability https://www.mass.gov/service-details/bicycle-plan
- Complete Streets <a href="https://www.mass.gov/complete-streets-funding-program">https://www.mass.gov/complete-streets-funding-program</a>
- Safe Routes to School https://www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school
- Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/htm/2009/part4/part4c.htm

