

# MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE CORRIDOR PROJECT

| Timeline  | Goals  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>1996</b> Two pedestrian fatalities on Mass Ave in East Arlington.</p>               | <p><b>Improve Pedestrian Safety and Mobility</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>2001</b> Town Meeting votes to “install appropriate lane markings” on Mass Ave.</p> | <p>Issues: Excessive crossing distances (66 - 80 feet). Road design encourages speeding by motorists. Multiple lanes of traffic are associated with a higher pedestrian crash rate, and can lead to multiple-threat crashes.</p> | <p>Solutions: Curb extensions to reduce crossing distances and improve visibility. Where feasible, reduce the number of lanes (all three traffic studies indicated this is feasible on most of the corridor).</p> |
| <p><b>2001</b> Board of Selectmen forms the Transportation Advisory Committee.</p>        | <p><b>Maintain Motorist Mobility</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>2002</b> Vision 2020 survey lists pedestrian safety as the top traffic concern.</p> | <p>Issue: Congestion at Route 16 and Lake Street.</p>  | <p>Solutions: Restriping and signal changes at Route 16 (done in 2003). Maintain existing road capacity at the Rt. 16 and Lake Street intersections.</p>  |
| <p><b>2002</b> Traffic study to assess various lane configurations.</p>                   | <p><b>Reduce Through Traffic on Local Neighborhood Streets</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>2002</b> Public meetings in East Arlington to identify community objectives.</p>    | <p>Issue: Substantial through traffic on Brooks Avenue, Herbert, Orvis and Bates Roads, and Oxford, Winter, Cleveland and Marathon Streets.</p>  | <p>Solutions: Manage traffic flow into the Lake Street / Mass Ave bottleneck, thus giving motorists less reason to use local streets to avoid intersection.</p>   |
| <p><b>2002</b> Volunteers gather pedestrian, bicycle and transit use counts.</p>          | <p><b>Improve Cyclist Safety and Mobility</b></p>  |   |
| <p><b>2003</b> Mass. Ave./ Route 16 intersection improvements.</p>                        | <p>Issues: High speeds and disorderly traffic flow on Mass Ave. ABAC survey indicated many cyclists are uncomfortable with Mass. Ave.</p>  | <p>Solutions: Explicit bicycle accommodation (bike lane) in the design.</p>   |
| <p><b>2003</b> Thermoplastic crosswalk program begins.</p>                                | <p><b>Create a Safer and More Orderly Traffic Flow</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>2005</b> Second traffic study, to develop conceptual design.</p>                    | <p>Issues: High speeds and disorderly traffic flow on Mass Ave. No lane markings to provide guidance.</p>  | <p>Solutions: Explicit lane markings. Ensure enough space so that left and right turns do not block through traffic. Curb extensions to improve visibility for motorists pulling out from side streets.</p>       |
| <p><b>2005</b> \$1.6 million in Federal funds earmarked for the project.</p>              | <p><b>Improve the Environment for Transit Users</b></p>  |   |
| <p><b>2005</b> Walkable Communities Workshop in Arlington.</p>                            | <p>Issues: A substantial fraction of person-movements on the corridor are on public transit. Two bus stops have no pedestrian crossing facilities. Little shelter for bus passengers.</p>  | <p>Solutions: New pedestrian crossings near Harlow and Trowbridge Streets. Improvements for pedestrians will help transit users. Other amenities (shelters?) to be determined.</p>                                |
| <p><b>2006</b> Proposals received for Project Design.</p>                                 | <p><b>Increase Business Patronage</b></p>  |   |
| <p><b>2007</b> Consultant selected for Project Design.</p>                                | <p>Issues: Perceived lack of parking. Unattractive walking and cycling environment.</p>  | <p>Solutions: Retain existing legal parking. Improve pedestrian, transit and bicycle environment, to enable customers to reach businesses without driving.</p>  |
| <p><b>2008</b> Begin Public Outreach for Phase 1 Design.</p>                              | <p><b>Enhance the Streetscape</b></p>  |   |
| <p><b>2009</b> Preliminary design completed and submitted for State review.</p>           | <p>Issues: Unattractive walking environment, with narrow sidewalks, little shade and little green space.</p>   | <p>Solutions: To be determined in the design phase.</p>   |