



TOWN OF ARLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING and
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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MEMORANDUM

To: Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager

CC: Jennifer Raitt, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development
Michael Rademacher, Director, Department of Public Works
Juliann Flaherty, Chief, Arlington Police Department
Mass Ave/Appleton Design Review Committee

From: Daniel Amstutz, Senior Transportation Planner, Department of Planning and Community Development

Date: October 7, 2021

RE: Mass Ave/Appleton Street Design Review Committee Review of Short-Term Modified Option 2: Bike Lanes

The Mass Ave/Appleton Street Design Review Committee (the "Committee") met on the evening of October 4, 2021, to review Short-Term Modified Option 2: Bike Lanes that was developed by the Town's Transportation Consultant, Green International. This Modified Option 2 for short-term improvements to the intersection of Mass Ave and Appleton Street/Appleton Place was developed at the request of the Town after the Select Board meeting on September 13, 2021, where the Board approved Short-Term Option 1: Shared Lanes and requested a parking study to be conducted for the area by Town staff. The Town requested Green International develop Modified Option 2 to combine elements of Short-Term Option 1: Shared Lanes and Short-Term Option 2: Bike Lanes that were both reviewed by the Board. Modified Option 2 hybridizes the two original options by incorporating bicycle lanes on both sides of Mass Ave west of the intersection and installing only one bike lane on the eastbound side of Mass Ave between Appleton Place and Burton Street. The westbound lane on Mass Ave between Forest Street and the intersection will remain a shared lane for cyclists and drivers. The plan for the proposed Modified Option 2 is included as an attachment with this memo.

The Committee was provided the opportunity to comment on Modified Option 2, as well as members of the public who attended the meeting. Overall, the Committee appreciated the Town's efforts to develop a short-term plan for the intersection that combined elements of Option 1 and Option 2 that the Committee had seen at its previous meeting on July 8. Committee members and public comments supported the plan, and no comments opposed to the plan were shared at the Committee meeting.

Committee members and several public comments identified technical suggestions and minor revisions to the plan, primarily areas for additional pavement markings and signage. Green International has agreed to make many of these revisions but will be unable to complete them

until the day before the October 13 Board meeting. These minor revisions will be available to present at the Board meeting and will not result in changes to the overall design or major elements of Modified Option 2.

The Department of Public Works is poised to implement the Modified Option 2 before the end of the construction season should the Board decide to approve it instead of Option 1. The DPW has retained a pavement marking contractor to complete the implementation and the final schedule will be weather-dependent. DPW is committed to implementing the signage and markings for the plan as soon as possible. The Department of Planning and Community Development will collect data for the area parking study as requested by the Board on September 13, with the intention of completing data collection before DPW makes changes as part of short-term implementation. DPCD will analyze the parking data later in October and will bring back the results to the Board in November or December.

I would be glad to discuss this further, should you have any questions about this information.