

**TOWN OF RYE – TAP GRANT COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
Thursday, March 9, 2023 – 1:30 p.m.  
Rye Town Hall**

**Committee Present:** *Chair John Loftus, Vice-Chair Lydia Tilsley, and Victor Azzi*

**Present on behalf of the Town:** *Town Administrator Matt Scruton, Fire Chief Mark Cotreau, DPW Director Jason Rucker, and Police Chief Kevin Walsh (joined at the start of the site walk)*

**Present on behalf of NHDOT:** *Project Manager Leah Savage, and DOT Highway Engineer Charles Willeke*

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

**2. Scoping Meeting with NHDOT**

The group met in the Town Hall courtroom to discuss the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant requirements, funding, and project goals. An initial meeting was held via Zoom on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to review the Local Public Agency (LPA) process, as part of the TAP Grant. This is a town managed project with NHDOT serving as a resource in working through the process.

The purpose of the project, as stated on the TAP Grant application submitted by the Town, is to redesign approximately 1,900 feet of Washington Road, which is a main roadway through Rye and a Class V Highway. The intent is to include a sidewalk extension, shoulder expansions, bike lanes, and new crosswalks. It will also include installing a setback sidewalk on the west side of Washington Road and connecting Rye Junior High to the Rye Public Library. Work will include bicycle lanes along Washington Road through the Town Center and reducing the traffic travel lanes to 10 feet. It will also include a buffer from the sidewalk and bike lane. In addition, it will include necessary and historically appropriate lighting to define the Town Center. The project is supported by several town planned initiatives; including, Safe Routes to School Plan, Rye Master Plan, and Rockingham Planning Commission Long Range Plan, all of which emphasize the need to improve the safety of the road to accommodate more pedestrians and bicycle traffic, as well as being ADA compliant.

The TAP Grant Program is a federal reimbursement grant program. All TAP funds are 80% federal and 20% town match. The reimbursements to the Town will be paid on a monthly basis.

Nonparticipating funds are 100% town funded, which covers items outside of what can be funded under program rules. At this time, total funds devoted to this project is \$1,040,000. It was noted that 3.7% will be added for three years to cover inflation, which would start in 2025.

There was some discussion about what was intended for the \$115,000 in nonparticipating funds being proposed and what may or may not be eligible. There was also discussion about when grant funds would be ready for distribution for the different phases of the project. It was noted that normally the projects go through two years of design work, which would start in 2023. The project would probably be ready for bid in 2025 with construction anticipated for 2026/2027. There was also discussion about seeking updated estimated project costs, which would be done by the engineering firm that is hired for the project.

Steps needed to be taken by the Town at this time include; choosing a representative for the project which must be a fulltime employee of the Town, as well as LPA Certified; and drafting the LPA Agreement. The Town would then start the process of choosing a qualified consultant for the project.

### **3. Other Business**

At 2:20 p.m., the group gathered to continue the meeting during a site walk along Washington Road through the Town Center. The group observed the Junior High School end of day student release and pedestrian safety was discussed.

The meeting reconvened at the Town Hall. The group reviewed project maps and continued discussion.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion by Lydia Tilsley to adjourn at 3:24 p.m. Seconded by John Loftus. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger