

Milton Traffic Mitigation Committee
Milton Town Hall
Milton, MA 02186

January 22, 2020

Michael F. Zullas, Chair
Select Board
Town of Milton
Milton Town Hall
Milton, MA 02186

Re: Draft Report of the Milton Traffic Mitigation Committee

Dear Chairman Zullas:

We are pleased to present to you a draft of the Report of the Milton Traffic Mitigation Committee, prepared in accordance with the charge issued to the Committee in its August 13, 2018 vote. The Committee requests that the Select Board consider and offer comment on the draft, following which the report can be revised, as appropriate, and issued in final form.

Over the course of our work during the past fourteen months, we met more than fifteen (15) times, held three (3) public hearings, received dozens of comments through our Wiki page and directly from Milton citizens, and were fortunate to receive expert advice from officials of the Town, the City of Boston, the Central Transportation Planning Staff, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and the MBTA.

Certainly it is no surprise to the members of the Select Board or to citizens of the Town that the report concludes that Milton suffers from acute congestion at key points of every day. While some of the root causes of this congestion are beyond the ability of the Town to solve on its own, we believe that there are steps that the Town can and should take to address the issue. We also believe that every trip on our roads matters, and that responsibility for addressing congestion and safety in Milton rests with all of its residents.


Most importantly, we recommend that the Select Board task Town Administrator Dennehy with the responsibility to follow up on those of the Committee's recommendations that are accepted and endorsed. We are fortunate that he has both the background and experience to fully understand these issues and the authority over the many Town departments that will necessarily be involved in this effort. The issues to be addressed will, like many transportation issues, take time to be fully resolved and must be looked at over a long time horizon. It is best, therefore, to begin immediately and to expect this to be a long-term, perhaps permanent, effort.

The issues addressed in this report go beyond roadway capacity and are also cultural. How they are addressed reflect a Town's values. In this regard, Milton's citizens made it clear that safety is their priority – a goal that is sometimes in tension with an interest in reducing congestion. The Committee concurs that safety must be the Town's overall priority even when safety measures at times result in more congestion, and recommends that the Town begin the steps necessary to fully embrace the Vision Zero program. Doing so will result in a recognition that safety is the Town's overall goal – an important policy statement. We also make recommendations on a shift in the mission and approach of the Traffic Commission. The Commission will be an important forum for addressing many of the ideas in this report. Lastly, we recommend that the Town take affirmative steps to provide more transportation options and choices and that it fully embrace the availability of the MBTA in and near the Town.

We have been pleased and honored to serve the Town in the consideration of the important issues addressed in this report and look forward to receiving your thoughts, comments, and feedback.

Respectfully submitted,

MILTON TRAFFIC MITIGATION COMMITTEE



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Enclosures: Draft Report and Exhibits

cc: Susan Galvin, Milton Town Clerk
Committee Members
Chase Berkeley, P.E., Chair, Milton Traffic Commission