

# Village Streets Engineering Study

## What is the Village Streets Engineering Study?

This study examines the possibility of street safety improvements as part of the road work scheduled for 2025. A warrant article in March 2022 was approved by the Amherst voters to fund an engineering study for possible improvements, to streets in the village. In summer 2022, the DPW hired Mobycon and CMA Engineers to conduct the study.

## Who is involved?

The Amherst DPW started the study in September 2022 and has requested participation from many town organizations including members of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Heritage Commission, Library, Historic District Commission, Schools, Planning Board, Amherst Land Trust, individuals who have previously shown interest, etc. Public hearings are planned and anybody who is interested is welcome to participate.

## What is the time frame?

In October, we will gather public input about how we envision the streets. In November, three scenarios will be produced and then, a preferred option will be selected. In January and February, CMA will assist the Town in applying for grants to fund improvements beyond regular maintenance.

## How will this be paid for?

The study has been funded with \$98k by warrant article. The normal road work will be funded by the 2025 town budget. Any additional costs beyond normal road work will be solicited by grants. At this point, there are no other plans for funding, so the grants are considered critical for any improvements recommended by the study.

## Will this impact the rural and historic character of the village?

No, the purpose of the study is to make the streets in the Village safer and more comfortable while respecting the historic and rural character of The Village. Public input will shape the vision and direction of the three scenarios and ultimately, of the preferred option.

## What factors are being considered?

First and foremost, public input is the primary consideration. In addition, there are many factors that are being considered:

- The historical and culturally sensitive environment of the Amherst Village Historic District
- Pending housing developments with prospective traffic pattern changes, impact on traffic volumes, etc.
- Persistent resident complaints about safety and speed concerns
- Public feedback indicating walkability of the village area
- Recent traffic studies which indicate potential failure of intersections
- A proposed consolidation of elementary schools, etc.

