



Salisbury Beach Betterment Association

PO Box 5508, Salisbury MA 01952

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January 3, 2023

Carrie Lavallee, P.E. Chief Engineer

MassDOT

10 Park Plaza

Boston, MA 02116

Re: Project File No. 607710

Dear Ms. Lavallee,

The Salisbury Beach Betterment Association (SBBA) is non-profit, community based, charitable organization with over 600 members. Many of our members live on North End Boulevard and will be directly impacted by the planned improvements. The recently revised plan addresses our membership concerns about the loss of parking and diminished safety on the easterly side of the road. Thank you very much for listening to the community's input. We are very excited about MassDOT's planned safety enhancements, fixes to drainage, the proposed crosswalk improvements, and the repaving of the entire boulevard.

After attending the public information session on November 30th, and reviewing the plan for the shared use path, we have an observation and two requests for your consideration.

Safety of the Shared Use Path

In the summer months, the sidewalk is used heavily by residents and visitors, many of whom are carrying beach chairs and accompanied by young children. The prospect of bicycles sharing the same space, especially with the advent of Electric Bikes, raises a potential safety issue.

Therefore, on behalf of our membership, we respectfully request that MassDOT explore ways to enhance the safety of the proposed bicycle and pedestrian shared use configuration. On the rendering, it appears that the shared use path does not extend to the extremity of the western right of way. We believe that incorporating this unused area, and perhaps combining it with one foot of the proposed 3.5' buffer, would result in a safer and more enjoyable public space.

Crosswalks

The SBBA has been instrumental in documenting and preserving public access to the beach. There are several public access ways to Salisbury Beach located on North End Boulevard. We believe that it is essential that a crosswalk be installed at every public access point. The SBBA has a long history of partnering with the Salisbury Police Department to enhance pedestrian safety by providing crosswalk signs. We are thrilled that MassDOT will be constructing highly visible crosswalks with bump outs and lights at each crosswalk. We respectfully request that prior to finalizing the project design, MassDOT confirms that there will be a crosswalk at every public access way.

Learn more at:
www.sbba.us

Speed Limit

The current 40 mph speed limit on North End Boulevard, a thickly settled area, is excessive and is a concern to our membership. We were encouraged to hear MassDOT discussing the possibility of conducting a speed test upon the completion of the project. We believe that a reduced speed limit is another critical component of the safety improvement that will result from this project. We respectfully request that MassDOT consider officially adding a review of the speed limit to the project plan.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our recommendations for the future of North End Boulevard. Salisbury is a very special community that we are proud to call home. We applaud MassDOT's efforts on this project and appreciate your continued collaboration with the Salisbury community.

Sincerely,



William Greilich
President
Salisbury Beach Betterment Association

Cc: Mr. Neil Harrington, Town Manager, Salisbury Massachusetts