

Town Council Workshop on Private Roads

Town of Barnstable

Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

March 7, 2024

Private Road Workshop Overview

- Review the September 21, 2023 Town Council workshop on Public/Private Roads in Barnstable
- Continue discussion on future policy regarding private roads

Review of the July 2022 Private Road Workshop

- Statistics on Roads in Barnstable
 - Public Roads
 - 250 miles of public roads
 - 700 public roads
 - 58% of our residents live on public roads
 - Private Roads
 - 200 miles of private roads
 - 1,100 private roads
 - 42% of our residents live on private roads

Private Road Workshop

- Budgeted support for public roads
 - Public Roads Program (250 miles)
 - Capital Budgets – FY 2024 \$3.75M
 - Pavement Management Program
 - Operating Budgets FY 2024
 - Admin & Engineering budget - \$2.06M
 - Highway - \$4.7M
 - Snow & Ice response
 - Private Roads (200 miles)
 - Operating budget for Private Road Repairs
 - Highway \$93K
 - Snow & Ice response

Review of the September 21, 2023 Private Road Workshop

- The Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC) has commented and continues to comment in their annual review of the Town Proposed Capital Improvement Program that further discussion at the policy level is needed regarding private roads.

Private Road Workshop

- Prior Workshop Discussion Item
 - Should we proceed with the taking of private roads?
 - **Yes**
 - No

Private Road Workshop

- Four major categories of private road related efforts for consideration
 - Should we proceed with the layout and acceptable of private roads?
 - Concurrent with implementation of the CWMP
 - That are primary and collector roads
 - After participation in the Temporary Repair to Private Roads Program or have had recent sewer installation
 - Any remaining private roads

Private Road Workshop

- What has staff done to further this effort?
 - Compiling lists of private roads within the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP)
 - Continue to bring before Town Council in batches to secure an easement so that projects are eligible for State Revolving Funds
 - Awaiting further direction as to whether the Town will commence layout and acceptance of private roads concurrent implementation of the CWMP
 - Awaiting further direction as to whether the Town will commence layout and acceptance of private roads from past implementation of sewer expansions projects

Private Road Workshop

- What has staff done to further this effort?
 - Compiling list of private roads that are categorized as meeting the eligibility in the Special Legislation approved in 2014 for Private Road maintenance in Barnstable
 - 44 Roads
 - Sewer Construction and Private Way Maintenance and Improvement Fund \$20M (Special Revenue Fund)
 - Specific wording in the legislation to determine eligibility
 - 2 private roads in the FY2025 proposed CIP that meet the eligible criteria
 - Should we proceed as proposed or should we layout and accept the private roads and repair as public roads?
 - Awaiting further direction as to whether the Town will commence taking of private roads from these 44 eligible roads

Private Road Workshop

- What has staff done to further this effort?
 - Compiling list of private roads that have participated in the Temporary Repair to Private Roads Program (TRPRP)
 - Current list has 23 roads
 - Varying scope of improvements
 - Prior TRPRP concluded with the option to take the private road following participation in this program
 - Thru 2004
 - Awaiting further direction as to whether the Town will commence taking of private roads from past participating private roads in the TRPRP

Private Road Workshop

- Workshop Discussion Items
- Should town staff proceed with including all other private roads in this effort?
 - Should private roads be encouraged to participate in the TRPRP prior to begin considered for taking?

Private Road Workshop

- Other efforts since last year's discussion
 - Developed draft guidelines to have a private road accepted by the Town for those ways not currently under covenant by Subdivision Control Law
 - Continued working with our former Town Engineer to assist Town Manager and staff in the organization of this effort
 - Proceeded with applying the Pavement Management System approach used for our public roads to our private roads to establish baseline information on condition and estimated cost

Private Road Workshop

- Workshop Discussion Items
 - Should we proceed with the taking of private roads?
 - **In CWMP Yes or No**
 - From prior sewer projects Yes or No
 - **Allowable in Special Legislation Yes or No**
 - How should we proceed with private collector road proposed in the FY2025 CIP?
 - With designated stabilization fund or as a public road after layout and acceptance?
 - **That have participated in the TRPRP**
 - Yes or No
 - **All others**
 - Yes or No

Private Road Workshop

- Additional discussion items
 - Review schedule and budget impacts related to the acceptance and layout of private roads.
 - If a private road requests to proceed under the TRPRP should we accept the road following that process? (Recommendation of the 1998 Road Committee)
 - What road design standards should apply to existing private roads in Barnstable that do not meet current road design standards?
 - When a new road is created as part of a subdivision project should it proceed through the process to be accepted as a public road?