Town Council Workshop on Private Roads

Town of Barnstable Mark S. Ells, Town Manager





Private Roads Workshop Overview

- Review the March 7, 2024 Town Council workshop on Public/Private Roads in Barnstable
- Continue discussion on future policy regarding private roads based on comments received at the prior workshops



- 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 Roads Workshop Why advance this discussion?

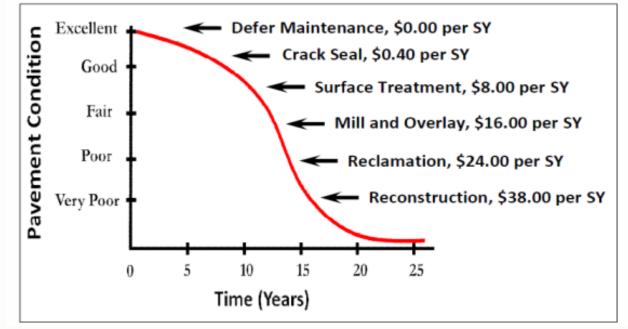
- The Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC) has commented and continues to comment in their annual review of the Town Proposed Capital Improvement Program that further discussion at the policy level is needed regarding private roads.
- We are proceeding with implementation of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan that will result in the reconstruction of private roads
- Private roads are for the most part used by the public and therefore should be maintained in a safe and functional condition



- Prior Workshop Discussion Item
 - Should we proceed with considering the taking of private roads?
 - Yes
 - No
 - More information needed to make policy decisions
 - DPW has proceeded with including private roads in the next pavement conditions assessment to be conducted in the spring 2025



Private Roads Workshop Pavement Deterioration Curve





- Organized private roads into five major categories of private road for consideration of layout and acceptance:
 - New roads
 - Private roads included in the implementation of the CWMP
 - Primary and collector private roads
 - Private roads that participated in the Temporary Repair to Private Roads Program or have had recent sewer installation
 - All remaining private roads



- New Roads
 - Should Town Council consider the layout and acceptance of a new road
 - Guidance document used by the Planning Board in review of a Definitive Subdivision Plan lays out a process for new road layout and acceptance
 - Past legislative direction has been that the Town does not layout and accept new roads
 - Resulting in new roads remaining private for decades
 - Town Manager recommends to Town Council that Planning and Development should review existing policy and guidance for Town Council consideration relative to the layout and acceptance of newly created roads



- 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
 - Recommend that the Town consider layout and acceptance of private roads concurrent with the implementation of the CWMP
 - Town staff (P&D, DPW, Legal, etc.) recommend to Town Council based on a predetermined set of criteria
 - If Town Council concurs with recommendation, then town would proceed with layout and acceptance
 - If Town does not recommend, then DPW prepares easement request for Town Council consideration and road remains private



- Private roads that are categorized as meeting the eligibility (collector and primary roads) 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
- Town manager recommends that the Town proceed with the necessary research to make a recommendation to Town Council as to whether these roads should be considered for layout and acceptance



- 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
- Town manager recommends that the Town proceed with the necessary research to make a recommendation to Town Council as to whether these roads should be considered for layout and acceptance



- All remaining private roads
 - Compile list of all remaining private
 - Town manager recommends that the Town proceed with the necessary research over time to make a recommendation to Town Council as to whether these roads should be considered for layout and acceptance



- Next steps
 - Legal review what formal action needs to occur by Town Council to proceed as directed in this workshop
 - Resolves
 - Prepare a draft Layout and Acceptance Policy and associated procedures document for Town Council consideration
 - Others
 - Complete the pavement condition assessment for private roads
 - Prepare a draft financial considerations for discussion with Town Council and possible referral to the Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee
 - Develop a public outreach process to engage the residents in Barnstable in the development of policy and procedures related to the layout and acceptance of private roads