



## Town of Needham, Massachusetts Media Release

Office of the Town Manager  
Town Hall, 1471 Highland Ave, Needham, MA 02492

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Pedestrian Safety Audit on the Agenda for Public Discussion at November 12<sup>th</sup> Select Board Meeting**

*Findings will inform town-wide pedestrian safety improvement plan*

**Needham, Thursday, November 7, 2019** – The Needham Select Board will hear a presentation from the Department of Public Works and the engineering firm Greenman-Pedersen, Inc (GPI). next week on the findings of a pedestrian safety audit commissioned last year to help guide the Town’s future pedestrian safety improvements.

The audit was commissioned in 2018 to identify high risk pedestrian crossing locations in Needham, provide recommendations for potential pedestrian crossing improvements, and develop an implementation plan for future planning, design and construction.

The audit findings will be presented Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7:30 PM in Powers Hall, Needham Town Hall. The report is available at [online](#). The findings of this report will help the Town address critical pedestrian safety issues throughout Needham. The public is invited to attend and provide input.

“Our number one job is to provide for the health and safety of the residents of Needham,” said Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. “This audit will help guide our planning as we work to improve our roadways and keep the public safe.”

Recommendations include implementation of 20-mph Speed Safety Zones where vulnerable road users including pedestrians and bicyclists, children, people with disabilities and the elderly are likely to be present. In total, GPI identified five roadways segments that warranted further evaluation for the implementation of a safety zone based on adjacent land use, number of access points along a given segment (including crosswalks, driveways and side streets), and segment length. Specialized signal and crosswalk improvements are suggested for these zones. In addition, the audit calls for dedicated bike lanes in certain areas, which would be set apart from vehicle traffic by green paint for enhanced visibility.

The report calls for the adoption of a crosswalk installation policy to ensure that crosswalks are implemented in locations where it is safe to establish a crossing, and that where installed, they are complying to Federal and State standards. The audit also includes recommended improvements for wheelchair ramp accessibility, traffic sign upgrades and streetlighting upgrades.

Initial pedestrian improvements were made earlier this year, based on earlier preliminary audits conducted by GPI. That audit can be found [online](#).

The Board invites all residents and interested parties to attend and provide input regarding this subject. For those who cannot attend in person, written comments may also be submitted to the Select Board, c/o Needham Town Hall, 1471 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02492 or by email to [selectboard@needhamma.gov](mailto:selectboard@needhamma.gov).

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