

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

September 14, 2020 Council Meeting

The following e-mails were received:

August 27, 2020 (after 4:00 p.m.) – September 10, 2020 (9:00 a.m.)

If you need further information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 610-7208.

From: [James LaJeunesse via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Bicycle Lane in Middle St
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 1:35:45 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
James LaJeunesse (jimlaj@gmail.com) on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 12:35:43

address: 161 Thornton St

comments: Please do not compromise the safety of cyclists in our city. Maintain the bicycle lane on Middle St. I
ride on this street several times a week.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 24.61.223.144

From: [CJ Fleck via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Bike Lane Motions
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 10:31:11 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
CJ Fleck (cj.fleck@gmail.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 09:31:09

address: 6 Rockaway Street, Portsmouth

comments: Councilor Huda's motion on the agenda to "move the parking of vehicles back to the curb in Middle Street Bike Lanes immediately for safety of all in lieu of the recent accident" flies in the face of the data and actual safety.

According to actual data, the number of crashes on that stretch is LESS THAN HALF this year vs prior to when the bike lanes were installed. That alone should put this motion to rest. The bike lanes make that street safer for all.

If that isn't enough, consider that the "recent accident" Councilor Huda refers to would have been impossible if the bollards had bad allowed to remain. The car involved in the dooring was parked illegally where a bollard had been in the past. If you want safety, perhaps all these attempts to remove and reduce bollards need a second look.

Lastly, some councilors that have been so vigilant in their efforts to remove the bike lanes have been going about it without consulting our actual city experts on the matter and running of their gut feelings and anecdotal accounts. That's not good governance, and this city's residents need our city council to do better.

We need to advance the design of Middle Street based on accurate data and expertise. Designing streets and safety based on your gut is simply wrong. We can do better. Leave The bike lane for now, and let's work to improve it.

Please vote no on Councilor Huda's motion, and yes on Councilor Tabor's. Let's advance our infrastructure, not move backwards.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 66.31.224.24

From: [Elizabeth Knies Storm via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: bike lane on Middle Street
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 1:49:31 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Elizabeth Knies Storm (elizabeth.knies.storm@gmail.com) on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 12:49:30

address: 24 Osprey Drive

comments: Dear Councilors,

I was pleased to read that the Middle Street bike lane issue is up for "reconsideration." We're lucky that so far a driver hasn't been clobbered trying to get out of his car, though the "dooring incident" proves that cyclists aren't safe, either. I vote for curbside parking for the cars. It's ridiculous to have them sticking out in the street like that. I don't know what the answer is for cyclists. I asked Frank Dodge (a native son who's lived in Berlin, Germany for the past 38 years) what it's like there. He said, "It's a disaster!" So there you have it.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 66.31.7.245

From: [Christina Cook via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Bike Lane
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 8:57:33 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Christina Cook (zenawcook17@gmail.com) on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 07:57:31

address: 380 Ocean Road #14 Portsmouth, NH

comments: Dear City Councilors,

I ride my bike all over town. There are not many places to ride that are protected from cars or with any room on the edge.
The current design of the Middle Street lane is the safest.
I'd rather get doored how it is designed now than doored into traffic. I've been doored into traffic, which has taught me to always ride defensively while passing parked cars.

Please keep the bike lane and work on education of drivers and bike riders.

Thank you,
Christina Cook

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 174.63.76.246

From: [Nick Tulloh via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: bike lane
Date: Friday, August 28, 2020 3:12:32 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Nick Tulloh (nicktulloh@comcast.net) on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 14:12:31

address: 311 Newmarket Rd

comments: please do not bow to the whims of uninformed rednecks who don't see the value of bicycling

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 67.189.247.19

From: [Anne Schwartzman via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Bike lanes and pedestrian safety
Date: Friday, August 28, 2020 7:01:43 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Anne Schwartzman (akey5@nycap.rr.com) on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 18:01:41

address: 118 Spinnaker Way

comments: Portsmouth needs more bike lanes, not less. Being away from traffic is ideal; you will never increase bicycling in the community with traffic right next to the bicycle.
Education is needed if people are to be dealing with new ways of the road. Think about our system; changes are made and most folks get no instruction on how to use/understand changes. Lower speed limits and take away roadside parking on Middle St. before moving the bike lanes. Make it easier for the bikes since that was the purpose all along.
Leave the bike lanes in place; ticket those who park incorrectly, remove parking if needed, and have a formal week or more of educating those driving with new (now old) lanes. Or make use of more paint to show where bike lanes are. People who wish to take the time to be educated about road changes can find the information on the state website <https://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/bikeped/index.htm>

Slow traffic down. Our planners can do so much more than what is being done now " Market St. could have had 5 foot bike lanes on both sides if middle of the road islands were smaller or not there. I see a lack of true ped/bike planning in the city as a whole for a ped/bike way-of-life.
Also for pedestrian safety, allowing moving vehicles at 2 crosswalk areas and right turns on red available downtown while people cross is wrong. 15 seconds of time saved will be the injury of someone crossing where all traffic once came to a stop, but where it will now be moving. I thought a traffic & safety committee would care about citizens over vehicles; the new changes show no such consideration. I wish the all-stop, all-cross would stay at Maplewood intersections.

Thank you for considering my opinions.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 67.189.234.89

From: [Sue Allen via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Bike Lanes on Middle Street
Date: Friday, August 28, 2020 9:03:16 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Sue Allen (Ssallen53@gmail.com) on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 20:03:15

address: 383 Union Street

comments: As an avid cyclist and resident of Portsmouth for the past 31 years I fully support the bike lanes. I have seen an increase in cyclists over the years and even more so in the past 5 months.

I am also in favor of keeping the protected bike lanes as I do not want to see cyclists closer to moving traffic.

Living on Union Street it is much safer now pulling out onto Middle since the installation of bike lanes, both on a bike and in a car.

If anything we need more education for drivers. They need to become more aware of their surroundings, cyclists and pedestrians, and slow down.

I have worked at the Portsmouth Middle School the past 10 years and the increase in the number of students riding their bikes is amazing. We can count on average 70 bikes a day parked in the racks out front.

The administration working with the police department developed a traffic pattern for traffic to keep the students safe when arriving and leaving school each day.

Cyclists were told they needed to follow the rules of the road and wear helmets when riding to school.

It's encouraging to see so many young people and families riding on the streets of Portsmouth.

We need to do more not take away what we have and go backwards.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 73.149.191.225

From: [Nancy and David MacDonald via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Bike Lanes
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 3:58:36 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Nancy and David MacDonald (nanmac28@gmail.com) on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 14:58:35

address: 28 Ball St

comments: We ask the City Council not to establish another task force. Task forces are not elected but they appear to be given the authority of an elected office.

The Middle St bike lanes need to be removed, with parking spaces restored to where they were. The current situation is dangerous as we have experienced many times exiting Cass St. on to Middle. St.

We ask this City Council to make the correction without establishing a task force.

Thank you,
Nancy and David MacDonald

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 73.149.72.244

From: [Ken Robbins via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Bike Lanes
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 3:41:10 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Ken Robbins (Ken.Robbins@Casella.com) on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 14:41:08

address: 26 Sewall Road, Portsmouth

comments: Despite everyone's best efforts, sometimes all of the meetings, analysis, and engineering result in a less than favorable outcome. That's what we have with the bike lanes. I'm an avid cyclist, averaging more than 2000 miles per year on the bike and consider the bike lanes to be dangerous because of the compromised line of sight for drivers entering Middle St for a left hand turn. I can't see how anyone could say that entering Middle from Aldrich is safer than it was before.

Push the cars back to the curb...use paint an bollards to delineate the bike lane

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 73.38.243.88

From: [Sarah Fleck via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Bike Lanes
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 11:58:48 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Sarah Fleck (sarah.fleck@gmail.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 10:58:46

address: 6 Rockaway Street

comments: As a Portsmouth resident who regularly utilizes the bike lane with my 10 year old daughter, I would encourage you to keep the bike lanes. Improvement should be the discussion not destruction.
Why are we talking about getting rid of something that is being implemented across the entire country? Do we want to be ahead of the curve or behind it?
Why are we talking about getting rid of the bike lanes when there are so many studies that show the benefits not only to the cyclists but also to the community as a whole? I hope we want to base our decisions on science and studies and not on the loss of a few parking spaces.
Lastly, I am concerned about getting rid of the bike lanes and the financial impact. My understanding is the removal of bike lanes would cost the city \$250,000 plus the reengineering of the streets.
Again, please keep the bike lanes and let's work together to improve them and not destroy them.
Sarah Fleck

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 66.31.224.24

From: [Shaula Levenson via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Bike Lanes
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 7:57:23 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Shaula Levenson (Starmom43@aol.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 06:57:21

address: 6 Curriers Cove

comments: I support the bike lanes on Middle! Please keep cyclists safe!

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 24.147.241.226

From: [Robert Najjar via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Bike Lanes
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 9:37:39 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Robert Najjar (najarnh@myfairpoint.net) on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 20:37:37

address: 10 Martine Cottage Rd

comments: Portsmouth should be proud that it was the first in the state to have a protected bike line on a major street. Being first has the challenge of educating drivers (and cyclists!) about how to use this new to the area bike lane. Having many visitors to the city also makes it difficult to educate them too. I support the Middle Street bike lanes and wish that the city would increase its efforts to educate the public through social/news media, issuing warning tickets (with info about the bike lanes), and issuing fines after repeated offenses. Thanks for your commitment to encourage different modes of transportation than cars and helping make cycling safer in the city.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 72.71.240.149

From: [Diane K Gibbins via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Bike Lanes
Date: Friday, August 28, 2020 4:05:16 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Diane K Gibbins (gibby3166@gmail.com) on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 15:05:14

address: 6 Stark

comments: I rode on the lane for the first time recently. Drivers and cyclists just need to pay attention!

Let's more forward, not backward. This partially protected bicycle lane project comes out of years of work and public processes, including Portsmouth Listens groups and the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan. It would be unsafe to change it...again.

Thank you!
Diane

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 66.31.24.211

From: [James Hewitt via FormMail.com](mailto:James.Hewitt@formmail.com)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Bike Lanes
Date: Thursday, September 3, 2020 8:23:18 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by James Hewitt (samjakemax@aol.com) on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 19:23:16

address: 726 Middle Street

comments: Dear City Hall e-mail screener:

On August 12, I sent the e-mail below through the City Hall Council contact portal. Since the August 18 meeting was a continuation of the August 3rd meeting, there was no CC packet for Aug 18 meeting. The e-mail was not in the August 31, 2020 meeting CC packet either.

Kindly place this entire e-mail string in the City Council packet for the September 14, 2020 meeting.

Dear Major Becksted and City Councilors:

Upon further reflection, my February 17, 2020 statement below that Portsmouth would need to pay any accident victim on the Middle Street bike lanes a Jim Boyle league payout for placing parking spaces off the curb that created substandard sight lines, and then knowingly not correcting this design flaw after being notified, was somewhat hyperbolic. Any accident victim will get a sweet settlement from Primex, but probably not Jim Boyle bucks.

If not done so already, I suggest the City Council have City Hall answer the questions in my June 12, 2020 email below.

Regards,

Jim Hewitt

-----Original Message-----

From: JAH <samjakemax@aol.com>

To: pawhelan@comcast.net <pawhelan@comcast.net>; jtraceantiques@me.com <jtraceantiques@me.com>; asstmayorjimsplaine@gmail.com <asstmayorjimsplaine@gmail.com>; mayorbecksted@gmail.com <mayorbecksted@gmail.com>; johnktabor@gmail.com <johnktabor@gmail.com>; pahuda384@gmail.com <pahuda384@gmail.com>; esthersmarina@gmail.com <estersmarina@gmail.com>; lazenbyforportsmouth@gmail.com <lazenbyforportsmouth@gmail.com>; Deaglan.McEachern@gmail.com <Deaglan.McEachern@gmail.com>

Cc: rpsullivan@cityofportsmouth.com <rpsullivan@cityofportsmouth.com>

Sent: Sun, Jul 5, 2020 4:19 pm

Subject: Re: Middle Street Bike Lanes...Let's make this simple,...again

Dear Mayor Becksted and City Councilors:

I'm not sure if City Hall has had a chance to answer the questions below for you , but when they do I thought I

would help reduce Portsmouth's annual \$ 7 +/- million outside consultant fees by say \$50,000.00 by preparing the attached.

These 2 cross sections show how the 26 feet of the southbound lane of Middle Street between approximately Lawrence and Cabot is now (problem) and how it could be (solution). It is a mystery why Portsmouth's cycling extremists and the their enablers inside City Hall are so inflexible on this relatively minor change. This arrangement is essentially no different that what they accepted for a bike lane from Highland to Islington / Congress / Maplewood and is about the same distance (2,000 ft v. 2,200 ft). Even better is that this design (solution) has a protected door clear zone while the Highland to Islington stretch does not.

According to the City's engineering consultant, the average annual daily traffic (AADT) on Middle Street is 11,000 vehicles per day. To be generous, lets say the Middle Street bike lanes average 50 bikes per day from January through December, with more in summer and less in winter. That means 99.5 % of the traffic in Middle Street is vehicles and 0.5 % is bikes.

It's time to tell the obstinate cycling lobby some reasonable compromise is in order.

Regards,

Jim Hewitt

-----Original Message-----

From: JAH <samjakemax@aol.com>

To: pawhelan@comcast.net <pawhelan@comcast.net>; jtraceantiques@me.com <jtraceantiques@me.com>; deaglan.mceachern@gmail.com <deaglan.mceachern@gmail.com>; asstmayorjimspaine@gmail.com <asstmayorjimspaine@gmail.com>; mayorbecksted@gmail.com <mayorbecksted@gmail.com>; johnktabor@gmail.com <johnktabor@gmail.com>; Shavanopah@yahoo.com <Shavanopah@yahoo.com>; esthersmarina@gmail.com <estersmarina@gmail.com>; lazenbyforportsmouth@gmail.com <lazenbyforportsmouth@gmail.com>

Cc: rpsullivan@cityofportsmouth.com <rpsullivan@cityofportsmouth.com>

Sent: Fri, Jun 12, 2020 10:23 pm

Subject: Middle Street Bike Lanes...Let's make this simple

Dear Mayor Becksted and City Councilors:

I understand the Middle Street Bike Lanes will be discussed on Monday night. While bike lane opinions vary, reality does not. Before making any decisions, the City Council needs to direct City Hall staff to answer the following two basic, but critical, questions :

1) Does the Middle Street bike lane design meet AASHTO "Green Book" standards (see attached) for sight lines at the intersections of Aldrich, Cass, Madison and Union, yes or no ? (note: meeting standards in "spirit" counts as a No)

2) Does the Middle Street Bike lane design meet the City of Portsmouth Driveway Rules and Procedures (see section 3.8 of attached) for sight lines for drives at 796, 774, 748, 700, 678, 668, 660, 640, 564 and 456 Middle Street ? (note: meeting standards in "spirit" counts as a No)

If the answer to either question #1 or #2 is no, then the City Legal department needs to answer the following:

3) Would an automobile accident on Middle Street , caused by a sub-standard sight lines that Portsmouth knowingly created, make Portsmouth taxpayers liable for financial compensation to the crash victims / victims' estate, yes or no ?

Once you have the answers to these questions, I believe you will have the information you need to make an informed decision on the fate of the Middle Street bike lanes.

Regards,

Jim Hewitt

-----Original Message-----

From: JAH <samjakemax@aol.com>

To: pawhelan@comcast.net <pawhelan@comcast.net>; jtraceantiques@me.com <jtraceantiques@me.com>; deaglan.meachern@gmail.com <deaglan.meachern@gmail.com>; asstmayorjimsplaine@gmail.com <asstmayorjimsplaine@gmail.com>; mayorbecksted@gmail.com <mayorbecksted@gmail.com>; johnktabor@gmail.com <johnktabor@gmail.com>; Shavanopah@yahoo.com <Shavanopah@yahoo.com>; esthersmarina@gmail.com <estersmarina@gmail.com>; lazenbyforportsmouth@gmail.com <lazenbyforportsmouth@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Jun 2, 2020 10:46 pm

Subject: Fwd: Portsmouth Driveway Policy & Bike Lanes

Dear Mayor Becksted and City Councilors:

I know many of you have expressed interest in the Middle Street bike lanes and for some they were a campaign issue. In case you plan to watch the June 4 Parking Traffic and Safety Committee meeting and the issue of sight lines comes up, the attached and below may prove useful.

Most of the bike lane debate is subjective. One aspect, however, is objective. Do the bike lanes meet City of Portsmouth and National Traffic Engineering safety standards? The answer is, incredibly, no. Therefore the current bike lane configuration must be scrapped and redesigned before someone is killed or maimed.

Herald reporter Beth Dinan and Diane Stradling nailed it almost 2 years ago...." a terrible visibility problem"

<https://www.seacoastonline.com/news/20180926/bike-lanes-on-middle-street-pose-hazard>

<https://www.seacoastonline.com/news/20180928/portsmouths-new-bike-lane-gets-mixed-reviews>

Thank you for putting the people of Portsmouth's interests first for a change.

Regards,

Jim Hewitt

-----Original Message-----

From: JAH <samjakemax@aol.com>

To: pawhelan@comcast.net <pawhelan@comcast.net>

Sent: Wed, May 27, 2020 10:26 pm

Subject: Fwd: Portsmouth Driveway Policy & Bike Lanes

Dear PTS Chair Whelan:

(Please forward this email and attachments to all members of your committee)

Back in mid-February, I made the Parking Traffic and Safety Committee aware that the Middle Street Bike Lane design is dangerously flawed by the fact it violates paragraph 3.8 of Portsmouth Driveway Policy. Any 16 year-old with a driver's license possesses enough traffic engineering knowledge to know that obstructions blocking the view of traffic at driveway and street intersections is a bad idea. The attached bike lane plans depict 200 foot sight lines at driveways and streets as required by Portsmouth's Driveway Policy and show how parked cars horrifyingly block a driver's view of traffic on Middle Street.

Thankfully, there is a solution that people with all levels of traffic engineering knowledge can agree on: Place parked cars at the curb. This solution is known as Concept C as shown on the attached.

At your June 4, 2020 PTS meeting, I encourage the PTS committee to direct City Hall staff to prepare a revised set of bike lane plans based on Concept C.

Regards,

Jim Hewitt

-----Original Message-----

From: JAH <samjakemax@aol.com>

To: pawhelan@comcast.net

Sent: Mon, Feb 17, 2020 6:05 pm

Subject: Portsmouth Driveway Policy & Bike Lanes

Dear PTS Chair Whelan:

(Please forward this email and attachment to all members of your committee)

There is another serious design flaw in the Middle Street Bike Lanes that needs to be brought the PTS committee's attention. Portsmouth violated its own Driveway Policy with the current bike lane design by placing visual obstructions in existing driveway sight lines. See section 3.8 of the attached.

If there is an accident based on Portsmouth knowingly creating substandard sight lines and James Sokolove gets a hold of this info, the financial settlement to the victim will make Jim Boyle's pending payout look like couch cushion spare change. This City has inflicted enough trauma on my wallet.

Thank you for putting the people of Portsmouth's interests first for a change.

Regards,

Jim Hewitt

-----Original Message-----

From: JAH <samjakemax@aol.com>

To: pawhelan <pawhelan@comcast.net>

Sent: Sun, Feb 16, 2020 2:04 pm

Subject: Middle Street Bike Lanes

Dear PTS Chair Whelan:

(Please forward this email and attachment to all members of your committee)

While opinions on the Middle Street Bike Lanes vary, all should agree the project plans were developed totally unencumbered by the engineering design process, at least with respect to safety for the motoring public. It is as if City Hall staffers saw some bike lanes on signalized, skyscraper streets in Manhattan and thought they could be dropped onto stop controlled, residential streets in Portsmouth.

Doctors take the Hippocratic oath, "First, do no harm". Engineers take a less well known oath, "First, do not make a bad situation worse". The intersection sight lines (the unobstructed line of sight a driver stopped on the minor street needs to see oncoming cars on the major street) on the west side of Middle St at Aldrich, Cass, Madison and Union didn't meet nationally accepted traffic engineering safety standards before the bike lane project. (ref. AASHTO Green Book). Shoving parked cars further away from curb and into drivers' sight line made these intersections immeasurably more dangerous. The current design may work well in Manhattan where every intersection has a traffic signal that tells you when it is safe to proceed. Drivers on side streets (Aldrich, Cass, Madison and Union) and private driveways need to see Middle Street traffic in order to determine if it is safe to proceed. Sight lines on these streets and private driveways need to be maximized by!

removing visual obstructions, including parked cars, back to the curb and by eliminating any parking spaces near the intersections that obstruct sight lines.

For reference, AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) sets sight line parameters as a point 14.5 ft back from the white line of the major street (Middle Street) and the driver's eye height of 3.5 ft above the ground. From that position a driver needs to see at least 200 ft (335 ft in some jurisdictions) for approaching vehicles moving at 30 mph in order to avoid getting T-boned.

I hope this year's bike lane revised plans presented to the Parking, Traffic and Safety Committee include mark ups that show how all west side driveways and side streets do, or do not, meet these AASHTO sight line safety requirements.

Thank you.

Regards,

Jim Hewitt

P.S. Attached is Intersection Sight Distance guidance document from Oregon for additional information.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 66.31.1.195

From: [Deborah Smiley via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Bike lanes
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 8:56:05 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Deborah Smiley (smiley.deborah@gmail.com) on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 07:56:04

address: PO Box 1184, Wolfeboro Falls NH

comments: Dear City Council members,
I ride in the Seacoast many times each year and being able to ride in and through Portsmouth is one of the reasons we choose to ride there. The bike lanes help make riding safe and should be kept and expanded where possible!!
Thank you for your kind consideration.
Deborah Smiley

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 72.71.210.187

From: [Nicholas Tavares via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Celebration of Life for Rus Wilson
Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 7:53:58 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Nicholas Tavares (nicholastavares2023@gmail.com) on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 18:53:57

address: 103 spinnaker way

comments: Good Evening!

With all the negativity floating around nowadays, I would like to first commend you all on your response to everything.

Students from Portsmouth High School are deeply saddened by the loss of a mentor and friend, Rus Wilson. We would like to honor him by a candle vigil, an wanted to reach out to you. This is the base of our idea right now: At 8:00, a socially distant gathering (With masks) will convene at Leary Field. There, the group will light their candles and join in a moment of silence. Selected speakers will then speak of Rus, like a celebration of life. At 9:00, after a second moment of silence, the gathering will end. The rules, including proper edict and COVID, will be enforced from the beginning.

Thank you very much,
Nick Tavares

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 71.232.211.55

From: [Brian Kiely via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Complaint about police actions at Ward 4 poll yesterday
Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 7:58:15 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Brian Kiely (m.bkiely@outlook.com) on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 18:58:13

address: 169 Cass St Portsmouth

comments: My wife and I are writing to lodge a complaint and express our outrage at the incident that occurred yesterday at the Ward 4 polling location. As you know, two Portsmouth police officers allowed a belligerent maskless couple to vote inside the high school, against the requirements that the city had put in place to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. These recommendations came from Dr Chan, State Epidemiologist at the NH Division of Public Health. An outdoor location was provided at the poll for anyone who did not want to wear a mask to vote for whatever their reasons, a perfectly reasonable alternative. The officers' actions put the lives and health of everyone in that voting area at risk: the courageous poll workers who have stepped up during this pandemic to ensure our democratic right to vote, as well as everyone who came out to vote yesterday during that time.

We thought that it was the job of police to enforce the rules, not to break them. Residents have been assured that protections would be in place at the polls so that we could vote safely during the pandemic, and these officers' actions undermined the public trust. We can no longer be assured that voting in the general election in November will be safe. Their actions opened the door for other anti-science, anti-maskers to demand that they also be allowed indoors to vote at the polls in November.

This incident was shameful and reflects very poorly on our community. We would like to see a public apology from the police chief in the media for this and a public guarantee that this blatant disregard for the rules will not happen again in November. We are in the midst of a dangerous pandemic and expect our police department to enforce the rules meant to mitigate the harm so that all of us can exercise our constitutional right to vote safely.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 72.65.104.147

From: [Mary Rhiel via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: face mask ordinance
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 8:34:39 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Mary Rhiel (mary.rhiel@gmail.com) on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 07:34:37

address: 550 Lincoln Ave

comments: I write to urge you to pass a face mask ordinance. The science is clear that face masks are effective NOW before we have developed appropriate treatments or vaccines. If 70% of the population wore face masks consistently, covid-19 would be defeated. Why would we not do everything we can to make that happen? Please pass the face mask ordinance.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 66.30.230.111

From: [Matthew Hilgendorf via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Green space at end of North Mill Pond Way
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020 1:23:26 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Matthew Hilgendorf (Matthewhilgendorf@gmail.com) on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 12:23:24

address: 102 Mill Pond Way

comments: In the past few weeks there has been a lot of activity with members of a group identified as the North Mill Pond advocates doing things like measuring the park, taking photographs, meeting the city arborist to discuss designs, and preparing for the delivery of a granite monument. One of them mentioned the plan to clear the brush on one side allowing for access to the “rest of the park” that sits in front of the house across the street from us. He also mentioned the installation of four or five benches that will be included in plans that they are preparing for delivery to Mr. Hollowell, City Arborist. Beyond the placement of the monument has anything else been approved by the city Council?

Another question I have is whether this land is officially designated as a “park” or is it simply land owned by the city. If it is an official park what does that mean?

I ask because I don’t fully understand the interplay between this private citizen group and the city as owner and custodian of the space. I have seen the advocate group fundraising using the city property itself (as in the case of the North Mill Pond regatta). Did they state in their application what the fundraising was for? Is this to say that anybody could run their own North Mill Pond regatta from this patch of city property and use it as a tool for fundraising for anything? Is fundraising a legal and sanctioned use of public property?

I have spoken to several neighbors and we want to see this space remain an unimproved green space that supports the local habitats and wildlife of the North Mill Pond ecosystem.

Thank you for your review of my questions and your ongoing oversight and careful consideration of the use of this public property.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 24.61.216.133

From: [Vincent Lombardi via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: HDC Member Dan Rawling
Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 12:00:23 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Vincent Lombardi (velombardi75@gmail.com) on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 11:00:21

address: 75 ALDRICH RD

comments: I would like to officially express my support for the reappointment of HDC member Dan Rawling. As a resident in our Historic District, he is passionate about the district's preservation, has extensive knowledge of historic buildings and has the respect of the design community in Portsmouth. I believe he is a critical voice on the Commission, has served honorably and would continue to be an important to the Commission and the City.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 72.65.104.78

From: [Jennifer Murphy via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: In support of the bike lanes
Date: Friday, August 28, 2020 3:28:44 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Jennifer Murphy (jenxmurphy@gmail.com) on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 14:28:42

address: 4 Francesca Way, Nottingham NH

comments: I'm writing today to voice my support of the Middle Street bike lanes.

This project has taken years of work and input, and needs to be improved, not reversed!

As a cyclist who works in Portsmouth, safety on the bike is one of my top concerns. I commute & run errands on my bicycle, I give Portsmouth my business on my lunch breaks. Myself & other scientists/engineers are literally working on COVID vaccines right now. We should not need to worry about being doored on the way to work or when we are trying to get some fresh air & exercise after a long day.

Please do not jeopardize the safety of myself and a growing number of families who have taken to enjoying bicycles. We should be enhancing the bike lanes, not wasting a considerable amount of money undoing the current viable design & repaying federal grant money.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 165.225.38.133

From: [Matthew Glenn via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Keep the politics out of Middle St and listen to your city staff
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 10:41:15 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Matthew Glenn (matthglenn@gmail.com) on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 09:41:13

address: 34 Harrison Ave, Portsmouth

comments: Dear City Councilors,
I need to object to Councilor Huda's framing of the Middle Street/Lafayette bike lanes as some sort of fight between cars and bikes, or residents vs. cyclists-- her words:

* A PROFESSIONAL TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER URGED THE PLANNING DEPT. TO RECONSIDER THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION AND IMPOSED STRATEGIES IN PORTSMOUTH. * WHERE PUSHING AN AGENDA TO TRADE IN VEHICLES FOR BIKING HAS SHOWN AN UNDERWHELMING RESPONSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

As many have pointed out, Portsmouth is not NYC or Philadelphia. Most of us who bike also drive cars-- although it's important to remember there ARE some in our community who do not have cars and rely on bikes and transit, but are usually not represented at community meetings. Framing this in a political way as some sort of fight between drivers and bikers misses the point of many Portsmouth Listen sessions, the Complete Streets policy, and the visions laid out in the city's master plan and bike/ped plan. We can make it work for all. Middle Street is safer for drivers than before, according to the data in your council packet-- and no worse a way for them to get in and out of town. Please read the City Manager's report on the issue with an open mind, and please be completely honest about the costs right now of making changes. I'd personally rather see \$250k (or \$10K for an engineering study) going toward our deteriorating police station.

Matthew Glenn
34 Harrison Ave, Portsmouth

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 66.31.0.67

From: [Evan McDermod via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Latest CDC Statistics
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 6:45:29 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Evan McDermod (emcdermod@gmail.com) on Sunday, August 30, 2020 at 17:45:27

address: 1205 Islington Street

comments: Hello All,

I hope this finds you well. I know that all of your guidelines have been based on the CDC. I have attached the latest numbers released from the CDC showing that out of 161,392 "COVID" deaths in the United States, 94% of them had an average of 2.6 other serious underlying health conditions listed on the death certificate (comorbidities). That means only 6% of deaths can be attributed to the virus, which makes a total of 9,683 deaths. Also included is a clear graph showing the death rate decline.

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid_weekly/index.htm

Based on this, I think it is abundantly clear the pandemic is just about over. There is no need for a mask mandate. We have not had one since the beginning, and yet we have not seen a spike within Portsmouth. Technically, an enforcement of such a mandate is in violation of U.S. Federal Law, Title II of the Civil Rights Act, U.S. Code 42 SS 2000(a).

I hope you consider these statistics and realize that any sort of mandate you put in place sets a terrible precedent.

Be well,
Evan

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 66.31.5.223

From: [ML Hannay via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Mandate Masks
Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020 8:14:55 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
ML Hannay (mlhannay@gmail.com) on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 07:14:53

address: 415 Union

comments: Facts Matter. Masks work. Please vote to mandate masks in Portsmouth in order to protect our first responders, health care/retail/hospitality employees, educators, all other employees, residents, etc. The mandate makes it easier to discourage people who don't like to wear masks from coming to our city, and hold people accountable. It keeps our numbers down. It is a mild inconvenience to protect public health. Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 73.149.191.159

From: [allen_nelson via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Mask Mandate
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 11:03:22 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by allen_nelson (Ishoals95@aol.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 10:03:20

address: 87 richards ave

comments: I am not writing to debate the validity of face masks. I am writing in opposition to any mask mandate and any legislative action that imposes punitive measures. Doing so will create another layer of complexity and, ultimately, conflict that we do not need in the current environment. This city council has lived up to it's responsibility to the public. To enact a mask mandate will be by definition an overreach with very little to show for it, other than creating issues that did not exist before. It will additionally, highlight a credibility problem this council has in this area.

This reeks of too much politics. To suggest otherwise is insulting. May I suggest that you accept the Mayor's most reasonable proposal and turn your attention in a meaningful way to another mandate? The McIntyre. It is vital to our City's continued long term viability as we work our way through this crisis.

A Very Concerned Portsmouth Citizen,

Allen Nelson

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 73.100.61.66

From: [Julie McCann via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Mask Mandate
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 5:27:24 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Julie McCann (jmccann68@gmail.com) on Sunday, August 30, 2020 at 16:27:22

address: 210 Odiorne Point Road

comments: Hello,

I'm contacting you all to provide my input as a Portsmouth resident regarding the proposed mask mandate.

My family, (myself, husband & 2 teenagers) are "opposed" to a mask mandate in our city! Current data continues to show very low covid numbers in our area (and state), even with all of the tourists visiting from all over the country and residents traveling outside of our city throughout the summer. From 3/1/20 - 8/30/20 only .471% of our residents contracted the virus, and currently only .018% are affected. These cumulative and current numbers are well below .50% !! Extremely low numbers like this do not warrant a mask mandate in our city! People are being responsible and accountable for their own actions. Enforcing a mask mandate that is not backed by data is unjust and unnecessary. Please do not enforce a mask mandate in Portsmouth!

Best Regards,
Julie McCann

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 174.63.76.142

From: [Martha Fuller Clark via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Mask Mandate
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 4:43:34 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Martha Fuller Clark (martha@mfcclark4nh.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 15:43:33

address: 152 Middle Street

comments: I am writing in support of the City Council mandating the wearing of masks according to the language revisions recommended by the Re-opening Task Force. Having actually experienced being ill with Covid-19, I believe the City should take the necessary precautions, including the wearing of masks, in order to prevent new positive cases of Covid 19 within our city. Thank you. Senator Martha Fuller Clark

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 66.31.2.167

From: [Mary Lou McElwain via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Mask mandate
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 5:36:34 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Mary Lou McElwain (ml259@comcast.net) on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 16:36:32

address: 259 South Street

comments: I have written to you in support of a mask mandate. But I am not in favor of police enforcement or fines. I have noticed just since I sent that email that more people inside and out of retail and restaurants are wearing masks . I think you can attribute that to education and the signs posted on most , if not all, store / restaurant fronts. It would seem reasonable for the council to strongly recommend and continue to promote wearing face masks . I saw a column on page two of “ Portsmouth Living “ that came in yesterday’s mail about a statewide initiative # MaskUPNewHampshire. Are you aware of this collaborative effort ?

Could the council work with this group and the Chamber to print new fliers (8x11 or so) that state “ Masks Are Required “ (or a similar statement) in bold , the flier outlined in bold colors. And with the agreement of our business community , place a flier on the door of every Portsmouth business., throughout the city. The City Manager, Public Health Director and City Council could add their names to this statement.

Presently many businesses, including at the many “strip malls” display notices. But the city should be behind this movement by issuing fliers that are consistent in content and color.

I would be glad to get a group together to distribute these fliers with city employees.

It’s time to finalize a plan.

Thank you.

Mary Lou McElwain

ps Does City Manager Karen Conard receive a copy these comments also?

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 71.235.15.119

From: [Carol Coronis via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: mask mandate
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 8:46:24 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Carol Coronis (rockthecittern@comcast.net) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 19:46:22

address: 42 Osprey Drive

comments: I urge you to adopt the concept of mandatory masks in downtown Portsmouth. There are far more people who do not patronize downtown because too many people do not wear masks. I miss shopping downtown terribly. I feel like my town was hijacked by anti-maskers--mostly out-of-towners, I'm guessing--who basically displaced us and stole our safety net. With a mask mandate, I'd venture into town and start shopping for all the birthdays and holidays my family has at the end of the year. And that's just one person, moi. I know there are so many more.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 71.233.84.92

From: [Rachel Kurshan via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Mask Ordinance - 3rd Reading
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 9:36:45 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Rachel Kurshan (rk00@comcast.net) on Sunday, August 30, 2020 at 08:36:43

address: 33 Humphrey's Court

comments: After reading about the mask protest Saturday in the Portsmouth Herald, which quoted several people who do not reside in Portsmouth but nonetheless came here to protest, I feel compelled to write a second time, as a Portsmouth resident, to urge the City Council to adopt the proposed mask ordinance. While the Portsmouth police have raised concerns about enforcement, another article on the facing page of the newspaper indicated that the towns of Newmarket and Durham have not had issues enforcing their ordinances.

I no longer walk downtown, as I've found it impossible to stay at least six feet away from the unmasked pedestrians that I see. I have heard downtown workers say that they would feel much more comfortable knowing that they had an ordinance to back them up when they request that unmasked customers put masks on. The ordinance has been carefully crafted to carve out exceptions for children and those with medical conditions that prevent them from wearing masks. The monetary penalty for not wearing masks is no more than the penalty for expired parking meters.

There is scientific evidence that wearing masks helps to reduce the spread of Covid-19. I am aware of no medical evidence indicating that wearing masks is harmful to health.

The fall will bring college students, leaf peepers, campaign workers, and others to Portsmouth. Our shared goal is to get our children back to school and to keep our cultural venues, restaurants, and businesses in operation. A requirement as simple as wearing a mask when physical distancing is not possible is a step in the direction of ensuring that this happens.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 24.61.219.95

From: [Gerald W.R. Ward via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Mask ordinance
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 3:07:16 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Gerald W.R. Ward (ward4staterep@gmail.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 14:07:14

address: 16 Nixon Park

comments: Greetings:

I urge you to continue your support for the mandate on masks. They are one of the more effective means of controlling the pandemic, despite what people hear or read on Facebook or Fox "News," Without dealing as best we can with the virus, our economy, based on tourists and restaurants, will continue to wither and eventually die.

It is discouraging that our Governor will make exceptions for his friends and not enforce his own rules, but we can be better than that in Portsmouth.

We need not be influenced, either, by a handful of ill-informed protesters from outside the city, although they have every right to express their ignorant and dangerous views.

Thank you all for your hard work and attention to this important matter.

Yrs,
Gerry

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 71.235.8.223

From: [William M. Lyons via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Mask ordinance
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 5:54:18 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
William M. Lyons (wm.lyons@comcast.net) on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 16:54:16

address: 62 Mendum Avenue, Portsmouth

comments: I request that the Council approve the mask ordinance and commend your leadership to protect residents while supporting business recovery. As a resident at risk I don't feel safe downtown. I hate boycotting my own hometown and the shops and restaurants that are a major pleasure of life here. On visits downtown the majority are without masks, oblivious that we are in a pandemic. Portsmouth and NH have done a good job keeping us safe but as I'm afraid we're taking excessive risks. We see how quickly rate can soar for a steady state around the country and world, Let's learn from the successes of neighbor states and peer cities and adopt this sensible ordinance which stresses education and communication with modest penalties as a limited last recourse. This will be effective when encouragement and burden on businesses to enforce are clearly failing. Please don't wait for the pendulum to swing the wrong way.

Thank you again for your leadership and concern for the community.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 75.68.180.48

From: [Barbara Ward via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Mask ordinance
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 4:37:46 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Barbara Ward (Wardports@gmail.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 15:37:45

address: 16 Nixon Park, Portsmouth.

comments: This is a note just to urge you to vote YES for a city-wide mask ordinance. Please don't listen to protesters against masks who don't even live in Portsmouth. A mask ordinance will help people to feel that coming to Portsmouth is safe, and will be a boon to our businesses. Right now people are in eating outdoors unmasked — which is important do they can eat — with pedestrians only a foot away on the adjacent sidewalks. If the pedestrians were masked, it would help the people who want to go to outdoor restaurants to fell safe doing so. I also urge you to have city employees collecting trash, and working in our neighborhoods to wear masks as well. If one of them gets sick not only does that make people in my neighborhood vulnerable, it also means that they will all have to be out of work to quarantine. Our police force is large. The justification for its size at budget time is always that we have so many tourists and we have thousands of people at Prescott Pa!

rk events on for events like Market Square Day and Children's Day. We don't have those now, and we never will if we don't take measures to stop the spread of CoVid19. We have plenty of officers available to enforce the mask requirement! And I look forward to seeing our police officers wearing masks as well! Thank you for your consideration.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 71.235.14.79

From: [Andrew Bagley via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Masks
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 7:04:54 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Andrew Bagley (abagley21@gmail.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 06:04:52

address: 40 Chauncey Street

comments: Dear City Council,

I hope that you have the courage to pass the mask ordinance tonight. Our kids are trying to go back to school and our business are trying to stay alive. It's a simple inconvenience with no real downside and plenty of possible upside. Please save some lives tonight. Pass the mask ordinance.

Best regards,
Andrew Bagley

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 72.65.102.100

From: [Janet L Polasky via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: masks
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 10:12:08 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Janet L Polasky (janet.polasky@gmail.com) on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 09:12:06

address: 62 Mendum Ave

comments: I strongly support the immediate implementation of a mask ordinance. Mask wearing and physical distancing have been shown to be two public health measures that work to limit the spread of the virus. Voluntary suggestions enforced by a sign board at Market Square have not been effective. My family gave up going downtown because of the number of people not wearing a mask. I wish we could be patronizing businesses where we usually shop, but the lack of masks has driven us online. Please give us back our city. Pass a mask ordinance. Don't wait until cases spike and then try to put the genie back in the bottle.

And thank you and the Recreation Department for opening the Peirce Island pool. You made my summer! It was a very safe space. There, everyone complied with the mask REQUIREMENT, was courteous, followed social distancing rules, and had a wonderful time. I really appreciate your willingness to appropriate the funds and the recreation department's diligence and extra work. It could not have been better managed. Thanks Harry and Rusty and all of the guards.

Janet Polasky

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 75.68.180.48

From: [Anne Rugg via FormMail.com](mailto:Anne.Rugg@formmail.com)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Middle Street - Avoiding a Dangerous Step Backwards
Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 12:49:03 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Anne Rugg (arugg362@gmail.com) on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 11:49:01

address: 362 Goodwin Road, Eliot

comments: Dear Mayor and Councilors:

The following piece will be appearing soon in the Portsmouth Herald. As a courtesy to the Council, I am also sending it directly to you in the hope that you will consider the facts and defeat Councilor Huda's dangerous motion regarding the Middle Street bike lanes. I and all community bicyclists appreciate your serious attention; we are deeply concerned. Thank you.

Anne Rugg, President, Seacoast Area Bike Riders (SABR)

September 9, 2020

Portsmouth City Council Should Avoid a Dangerous Step Backwards

As long-time advocates for the bicycling community in Portsmouth and neighboring towns, Seacoast Area Bike Riders (SABR) has played an active role in promoting bicycling as a fine way to exercise for all ages and, whenever possible, as a healthy alternative way to run errands and commute. We pay special attention to the needs of new riders, especially the very young. Because this year's pandemic has forced us to rethink many aspects of life, the surge in new riders has delighted us! Ridership in Portsmouth has expanded dramatically and it's unlikely to abate. On Middle Street alone, City data shows ridership is up 50% over last year!

We have worked locally for many years to improve bicycling infrastructure in Portsmouth. It's been slow going, but the Middle Street bike lane project was a first major step to provide safe, buffered travel for bicyclists along one of the City's main corridors. After many years of staff work and multiple events for public input, Portsmouth embraced the "Complete Streets" concept and has adopted a long-term goal for "multi-modal" transportation that caters equally for the safety of drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. To quote from Portsmouth's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan:

"The vision for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan captures and articulates Portsmouth's commitment to increasing walking and bicycling. This commitment is evident in the policies and plans that have been created since the adoption of the City's 2005 Master Plan, which called for "safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian circulation throughout the city."

It was alarming to us, then, when Councilor Huda recently referred to the Middle Street project as an example of "pushing an agenda to trade in vehicles for biking . . ." Nothing could be further from the truth and her remarks serve only to deepen the unnecessary division that's developed around the project. Area bicyclists are also drivers and pedestrians and they park vehicles. They understand the concerns of reasonable residents. It's a pity that residents haven't had the chance to hear the kinds of shared concerns and creative thinking going on among the bicycling community. When people come together in a spirit of goodwill to discuss problems they invariably find they have more common ground than not. That hasn't happened and the Council hasn't encouraged it.

At their next meeting, the Council will vote on Councilor Huda's motion to immediately return parked cars to the curb over a long section of the bike lanes, thereby placing bicyclists, without adequate buffering, back next to the travel lane where vehicles routinely travel at 35mph. The Mayor and other Councilors are determined to do this in

spite of safety recommendations from every single source of expertise — that bicyclist safety would be compromised. Those sources include NH DOT, national best practices and standards, the City’s professional staff, and 8 of the 9 members of our own Parking and Traffic Safety Committee (notably including Police Captain Newport and Fire Chief Germain).

We also note that Councilor Huda took a hawkish stance during our recent budget process. For example, she and the Mayor made a specific line-item cut of over \$35,000 to the public works restriping budget. Road stripes are essential for all road users, but are especially important as the basis for the entire bike lane project. From the perspective of fiscal responsibility, moving parked cars back to the curb will essentially waste a good chunk of the \$225,000 grant funding and \$85,000 of City money already spent. The City will be liable to repay the grant money to the State. The cost of undoing the project will entail a further engineering study (up to \$10,000) and restriping costs of over \$50,000. The budget cut and these costs taken together make absolutely no fiscal sense: save \$35,000 here, waste over \$300,000 there.

Based on our own expertise and experience at SABR, we add our voices to those who caution against a dangerous step backwards. We completely understand that residents and drivers are being asked to adapt a little and adjust to new patterns. However, we also know that with goodwill and creativity all around such projects can work. During the first three years of the project, City staff have taken public concerns very seriously and made improvements each year. Every single concern of residents has received a response. One small example resulting from improvements: the sight lines for drivers entering Middle Street from Aldrich Avenue and Cass Street have NEVER been as good for drivers as they are now. In addition, City data shows the accident rate on the street is down by more than 50% over the previous year.

Portsmouth’s growing bicycling community would rather work together with residents around a common theme: safety, especially for our most vulnerable travelers. If you ride, are thinking of buying a bike, or are the parents of young riders, please let the Council know that you support the continuation of the Middle Street bike lanes as an important step towards something even better in the future. Let reason prevail.

If you’d like to know more about SABR and how you can help promote bicycling as part of our way of life in Portsmouth, please email us at: info@seacoastbikes.org

Anne Rugg is President of Seacoast Area Bike Riders (SABR).

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 71.233.87.81

From: [Nicholas Norman via FormMail.com](mailto:Nicholas.Norman@formmail.com)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Middle Street Bicycle Lane
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2020 1:16:51 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Nicholas Norman (letsblue2002@yahoo.com) on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 12:16:49

address: 90 Brewery Lane, #207, Portsmouth, NH 03801

comments: Dear Councilors:

As a Portsmouth resident and recreational bicyclist, I am writing in support of the Middle Street bicycle lane and to encourage the City to avoid wasting funds to undo this project.

The current design of the Middle Street bicycle lane provides more space and separation between people on bicycles and vehicle traffic. In the event of a “dooring” by a vehicle into a bicyclist, the risk of a bicyclist being run over by a motor vehicle is mitigated since vehicle traffic is separated from the rider. Further, as outlined in the Middle Street Bike Lanes – Report Back for City Council August 31, 2020, opined by Portsmouth Police Department Captain Newport and Portsmouth Fire Department Chief Germain, and promoted by the National Association of City Transportation Officials and the U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration, the parking-protected design of the Middle Street bicycle lane provides the physical protection from passing vehicle traffic that bicyclists need to travel safely.

Aside from a safety risk to bicyclists, hastily redesigning a bicycle lane without full regard to the federal grant funds used to create the current Middle Street bicycle lane is a financial risk to the City. According to the Middle Street Bike Lanes – Report for City Council August 31, 2020, the “separated bike lane is the appropriate design [and] reverting to prior condition would require returning the federal funding received for this project.” Consequently, relocating the bicycle lane - even temporarily - could require taxpayers to pay \$250,000 back to the federal government. Arguably, in light of the current conditions of the Portsmouth economy during the COVID-19 pandemic, this money could better be used towards supporting the local community through tax abatements, public work projects, public safety resources, etc.

In conclusion, I encourage the City to improve upon the parking-protected design of the Middle Street bicycle lane and build out the network for bicyclists, not take a costly and unsafe step backwards by returning to an unseparated bicycle lane.

Regards,
Nicholas Norman
90 Brewery Lane, #207
Portsmouth, NH 03801

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 71.233.80.25

From: [Jonathan Sandberg via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Middle Street Bike Lane
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 12:47:17 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Jonathan Sandberg (jfsandberg@yahoo.com) on Sunday, August 30, 2020 at 11:47:15

address: 160 Bartlett Street

comments: Critics of the Middle Street Bike Lane often complain that the road has become more dangerous while failing to increase bike ridership. These criticisms are proven to be completely false by data recently collected by the Department of Public Works which shows that car crashes have been reduced from 26 the year before the bike lane was installed to a mere 12 in the past 11 months and that ridership has increased substantially to about 120 bike trips per day, which would likely be even higher if school were in session.

Even with those measured improvements, is Middle Street perfect the way it is now? Of course not. It can be definitely be improved to better serve the the thousands of motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, and residents who rely on Middle Street every day. That is why I support Councilor Tabor's motion on Monday night to create a Middle Street task force composed of representatives of all stakeholders to come up with a solution to make Middle Street safe, convenient, and beautiful for everyone. So let's have the disparate groups come together to find Middle (Street) ground.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 71.168.112.174

From: [Mary Malloy via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Middle Street Bike Lane
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 12:50:46 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Mary Malloy (mrymly@yahoo.com) on Sunday, August 30, 2020 at 11:50:45

address: 24 Kensington Road, Portsmouth

comments: Letter to city council

I'm writing in support of keeping and improving on the Middle St bike lane. I understand that there are concerns about safety and convenience, but it's critical that we move forward in correcting these issues, not backwards. This morning I witnessed a young boy, perhaps 10-12 years old, getting "doored" on Lincoln Avenue by the passenger on the driver's side. He and his bike were slammed directly into the street. Luckily, no cars were coming, but it could easily have been otherwise. He was able to get up and cycle away. He seemed to be embarrassed and shaken, probably feeling that he was somehow at fault. Cyclists need a route where they are physically protected from moving traffic. This is the future of transportation. Removing the bike lane puts Portsmouth on the wrong side of history.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 71.235.9.52

From: [Daryn Clevesy via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Middle Street Bike Lane
Date: Friday, August 28, 2020 11:14:42 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Daryn Clevesy (Darynclevesy@gmail.com) on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 22:14:41

address: 83 Blue Heron Drive, Portsmouth, NH 03801

comments: Biking/cycling as a means of transportation and recreation have gained traction and increased in popularity since the coronavirus global pandemic began in March 2020. I myself am new to the sport and would hate to see bike lanes being removed rather than implemented in our cities streets and NHDOT planning. There are plenty of streets where I have come across sketchy scenarios of bike lanes ending abruptly without warning or in areas where bike lanes would be highly appropriate.

I believe we should be investing towards more bike lanes and a more bike friendly community from now on and into the future. Please do not, remove any existing bike lanes that are paramount for individuals safety.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 71.192.186.171

From: [Daniel L Fleckenstein via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Middle Street Bike Lane
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 8:42:42 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Daniel L Fleckenstein (dlfleck23bvf@gmail.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 19:42:40

address: 21 RUTLAND ST

comments: I have commuted via bike to and through Portsmouth for many years., The Middle Street bike lane was the smartest move i've seen in the whole Seacoast to protect and encourage cyclists to use their bikes instead of cars especially in the way too car-cenrtic downtown area. Please don't undo years of hard fought progress by eliminating it, that would be a tragic waste on so many levels, we need more and smarter strategies to encourage cycling as a safe alternative to driving, not less. The city of Portsmouth could be under water literally in the not too distant future if we do not all do our part to reverse climate change, the creation of the bike lane is a small but very tangible & significant step in the right direction, please don't undo it.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 73.61.65.102

From: [charlotte Bouvier via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Middle street bike lane
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 4:05:01 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
charlotte Bouvier (charlotte.bouvier@gmail.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 15:04:58

address: 1001 ISLINGTON ST, apt 43

comments: Portsmouth made a big step forward implementing a protected bike lane. Going away from a protected bike lane by putting bikes on the driving side of the parking would not only be a step backward but be less safe for everyone (drivers and bicyclist). Its a proven fact that its safer for everyone to have to be protected.

Please don't take the protected bike lane away.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 66.55.223.98

From: [Grace Lessner via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Middle Street Bike Lanes
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 6:33:09 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Grace Lessner (glessner@mindspring.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 05:33:07

address: 15 Hawthorne St

comments: I am writing in support of Councilor Tabor's motion at tonight's City Council meeting to create a citizen task force to answer the question: "How can we make Middle Street a bicycle-pedestrian-vehicle boulevard that works for everyone and enhances the city?"

I am a bicyclist who lives two blocks from Middle Street, and regularly rides all over the city, to Kittery and around the Seacoast. I am also a daily pedestrian who has seen how the bike lanes, while not perfect, have compelled drivers to slow down and become more aware of non-motorized movement.

More to the point, I support the use of data to determine the value of the bicycle lanes: city studies show car accidents have been reduced from 26 the year before the bike lane was installed to just 12 in the past year. Ridership is way up, car speeds are down. The number of accidents has been halved! How is that not a positive demonstration of the value of the bike lanes?

Therefore, I support Councilor Tabor's proposed citizen task force to bring together residents who have a common goal of improving and retaining the bike lanes. This retention of the lanes has been supported by scientific data time and again, including data submitted to the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee.

Further, the expenditure of funds to remove the lanes, as well as the attendant loss of federal funds due to the removal of the lanes, would be an irresponsible action on the part of our elected officials who are not guided by ongoing data that shows the lanes have overall improved the safety of those traveling on the road.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 50.202.75.50

From: [Annie Poubeau via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Middle Street/Lafayette Rd protected bike lane
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 8:30:29 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Annie Poubeau (jalognes@hotmail.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 07:30:27

address: 160 Bartlett Street

comments: Good morning,
I am writing to point out a few facts about the Middle Street Lafayette Road protected bike lane. It is important to make decisions based on facts, not emotions.

The report given by city staff (included in 08/31/20 council packet, starting at page 145) shows that it's not just bicycle safety that has been improved since 2018, but also motorist safety. In the year before the protected bike lane was installed, there 26 accidents reported on this road (period: October 2017-October 2018).

From October 1, 2019 to August 21, 2020 the total number of accidents for that same area was 12.

In the same report, we learn that "City staff has conducted spot counts at several locations along the bike lanes.(...)

This year's count during the last week of July revealed a daily total of 119 bicycles using the bike lanes between the hours of 6 AM and 8 PM, for an average of 8.5 bicycles per hour.

Previous years' counts at the same location, revealed an average 2.4 to 7.7 bicycles per hour. The previous years' peak of 7.7 occurred in June, typically a peak month of bike usage.

During the last week of July in 2019, the average number of cyclist was observed at 5.1 cyclists per hour.

So the number of cyclists using the bike lanes has increased significantly over previous years."

Again this is all in the packet for 08/31 council meeting.

These facts are from City Manager Karen Conard's report.

Please consider these facts: the Middle Street/ Lafayette Rd bike lane is a good thing for Portsmouth's residents.

Thank you,

Annie Poubeau

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 71.168.112.174

From: [Joseph Paquet via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: No mask mandate
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 12:51:35 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Joseph Paquet (jpaquet4@gmail.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 11:51:34

address: 79 Thornton St

comments: Good afternoon, please do not vote to implement a mask mandate with fines in any part of Portsmouth outdoor spaces.

Thank you

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 207.5.158.254

From: [Bessam Aljewad via FormMail.com](mailto:Bessam.Aljewad@ais-us.com)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Personal Protective Equipment
Date: Friday, August 28, 2020 10:07:50 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Bessam Aljewad (bessam.aljewad@ais-us.com) on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 09:07:48

address: 26B Huckins Rd Madbury NH

comments: Dear Council Members,

As a concerned father whose kids are returning to school this fall, I am writing to you to ask for your opinion regarding a solution to large gatherings of people. Kindly note that this is not a solicitation for profit but rather an attempt to help in the middle of this crisis. With kids coming back to NH from all the states I know that I would feel much safer if every precaution was taken to protect our state and keep the numbers of infections small.

This solution is suitable for universities, schools business, malls, gas stations, hospitals, airports, long queues and crowded areas. I have joined a retail startup for augmented reality AI thermal glasses designed to detect elevated skin temperature ESD at a safe distance of 6-12 ft.

The glasses provide a low profile minimum interaction solution. It is better than handheld thermometers that usually require the close encounter with potential patients. It also does not require people to stand stationary in front of the thermometer or remove their facial masks to get a reliable temperature reading. It can further handle multiple moving individuals in one shot.

Please note that this device detects only people with fever and we are not claiming an FDA approved CoVID-19 detector. However, this product was developed as a consumer electronic gadget to stop the spread of the infection and protect healthcare professionals or education staff. With many people visiting hospitals, malls, beaches or universities on a daily basis it becomes critical to quickly screen crowds and isolate people with fever from the rest of the population.

Unfortunately, the price from the manufacturer does not come cheap and for that reason, I would like to check if CARES Act funding applies to support such a product. This would help schools and business acquire a handy solution and does not add a lot of financial burden.

Please inform me of your opinion on the product. I am ready to demo the product for anyone who would be interested

For more information, please visit our website www.ais-us.online

Regards

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 67.189.135.55

From: [Maxine Cohen via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: PLEASE - NO MASK MANDATE
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 8:55:22 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Maxine Cohen (maxine.kenny@outlook.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 07:55:21

address: 21 Langdon St, Portsmouth NH

comments: As I'm sure all of you are aware - our numbers of Covid-19 infections continue to decline. As a longtime citizen of Portsmouth, I speak for myself and so many others by saying we do NOT need or want a mask mandate.

What would be the point of implementing one at the very end of our tourist season when the data doesn't support it? Most people are responsible enough to wear one on there own, and most businesses require one for entry. I'm not even sure what it would accomplish, other than preventing people from getting fresh air in non populated areas.

PLEASE do not give in to baseless fears or people online claiming that they would shop or eat out more if there were a mask mandate - I think we all know that's untrue. As you literally cannot enter a business downtown without a mask at present. Having a mask mandate wouldn't change the fact that once you're at your table, you can take the mask off...Our community is already doing an excellent job and making safety a top priority. We are fortunate to live in the quaint New England town of Portsmouth, NH - let's not pretend this is Boston or New York City, or any place that has had or continues to have major problems.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 72.65.104.186

From: [Laura Okruhlik via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Please keep the Middle Street bike lanes!
Date: Friday, August 28, 2020 6:06:42 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Laura Okruhlik (lkokruhlik@gmail.com) on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 17:06:40

address: 11 MILL POND LANE

comments: I don't ride my bike on Middle Street, but I do use it to commute to and from work every day in my vehicle. The protected lanes make the road significantly safer for all users, not just cyclists. Before the bike lanes, it felt dangerous to drive because folks would whip around the wide lanes and corners in and out of their own lanes at speeds much to fast for the neighborhood setting. The protected lanes make us all safer!

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 98.229.174.56

From: [April Galda via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Please protect our bike lanes and make cycling safer on the Seacoast
Date: Sunday, August 30, 2020 10:59:22 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
April Galda (aegjoyce@gmail.com) on Sunday, August 30, 2020 at 09:59:20

address: 493 Central Rd, Rye

comments: The ease of Cycling - for fun, for sport, for transport - is one of the most appealing aspects of living in the Seacoast. There is a great cycling community that supports local businesses and benefits the environment. Please keep all of our existing bike lanes and continue to expand them to offer safe roads for all the cyclists in the area. Thank you

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 107.3.15.6

From: [John \(& Jan\) Desmond via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Portsmouth Mask Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 10:51:05 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
John (& Jan) Desmond (portsmouth@kilwins.com) on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 09:51:03

address: 20 Congress Street

comments: We are a private business. My family is in the business of making a living for ourselves, providing fun and meaningful employment for others ranging in age from 14-92, and serving up smiles to locals and tourists alike. When asked what I do, I often respond that I'm in the business of happiness, sold in the form of chocolate & ice cream.

In the last 3 days alone, we had one individual tell an employee that she was "a sheep and that [she] would never amount to anything" and another tell us that he hopes "[our store] goes down in flames". What led to these interactions? Politely asking the individuals in question to respect the same store policies we ask of everyone (and have outlined on signage affixed to our front door). By taking a hands-off approach and naively believing that visitors will simply "do the right thing", our leaders have forced small business owners and frontline workers to become the enforcers of public health efforts without any real support or legal backing - all in addition to our normal everyday duties.

At this point, I welcome any mandate that moves the burden of enforcing a public health initiative from a private business to the local government - we'd like to go back to focusing on the chocolate!

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 71.192.187.69

From: [Lillian Seitz via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Post Office
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 11:11:30 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Lillian Seitz (liliem@comcast.net) on Friday, September 4, 2020 at 10:11:28

address: 20 Taylor Lane

comments: In regards to the repurposing of the McIntyre building I know many people, especially businesses downtown would like to see a post office included in the new plans.
I for one, love where the post office is now on Heritage Ave. It is easy to get to and there is always parking available. I can tell you that the older population loves this location too and most residents I speak to love it also. If the post office has to move back to the old location I would like to be reassured that there will be designated parking for post office business and also handicapped parking for the post office.
The other option that would be pleasing to everyone is to keep the post office on Heritage Ave. and have a small satellite office in the downtown area. Similar to the tiny post office that is in the Pease Tradeport.
Please keep these comments in mind and remember the senior population who needs handicap and accessible parking for post office business!
Thank you!

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 66.31.5.30

From: [Jane Zill via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment 8/31/2020
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 5:10:02 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Jane Zill (janezill@comcast.net) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 16:10:00

address: 27 Shaw Road

comments: August 31, 2020

City of Portsmouth City Council meeting
Jane Zill, L.I.C.S.W.
Public comment
Sagamore Avenue Sewer Extension project

Please delay voting on a plan for the Sagamore Avenue Sewer Extension until residents can address the following six concerns:

1. The Meaning of the three “Approaches “ put forward in the memo from the Deputy City Attorney to the City Manager, particularly Approach 3, which is the Deputy Attorney’s recommended approach

Residents received this information on August 25, 2020. They now need it repeated and presented in plain language with time to understand the ramifications of the various approaches ... including cost. It’s ludicrous to think that during a pandemic and at the end of the summer, with many in the grip of anxiety about the economy, schools re-opening, the approach of a crucially significant presidential election, and news of great social significance, that residents would have time to read and comprehend the information contained in this 6 page, single spaced memo in 5 DAYS.

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2020-08/Memo%20re%20Sagamore%20Ave%20Sewer%20Approaches%202020.08.20.pdf>

Unlike city personnel, residents and city councilors must find time to fit learning about this project into their schedules. For these individuals, this learning is not part of compensated professional responsibilities and residents don’t have access to special consultants and engineering firms as city staff apparently does.

This is why waiting to involve residents until Sept. 5, 2019, only eight months before the project was to begin, yet included in a Federal Consent Decree three-full years before, in 2016, was so egregiously wrong.

If the pandemic is a valid excuse for delays in work completion at Peirce Island, as stated two times in the July Compliance report to the EPA submitted by our DPW Director, it should also be considered a valid reason to delay voting tonight in order to allow residents time to understand the latest Sagamore Sewer scheme presented by city personnel.

2. Clarification about the need for additional homeowner’s insurance

In addition to plain language and time, residents need information about the importance of additional homeowners insurance for privately owned and operated grinder pumps, which is the home “appliance” needed to make the lower pressure system work. The importance of additional insurance is emphasized in “The Sludge Report.” During the vendor presentation on 8/26/2020, with 50,000 pumps in operation in NE and a representative with decades of experience, the insurance question was deferred with the recommendation that individual residents ask their individual insurance companies. The vendor would not offer even offer anecdotal information on this and declined

to give much information on instances in which sewage has backed into people's homes and yards.

The pump only has a two-year warrantee, the city will not help maintain or operate it, and it will be the resident's responsibility to fund cleanup from a spill or accident due to pump failure. Understood in this context, it's crucial for residents to have time to investigate homeowners insurance for a low-pressure system.

After the insurance issue is better understood, resident interest in participating in the project may increase or decrease, which would impact funding and design. Given this, it's unwise to go forward with a vote tonight.

3. Application of laws requiring parcels close to a city sewer line to hook-in.

Residents need written clarification about the applicability of state law, local ordinance, and past practice regarding parcels located in close proximity of a sewer line. Would a decision to not hook-in now by those living in close proximity to a newly laid sewer line be legal? It's complicated. For example, the age of a septic system is a factor in state law but not local ordinance. What written guarantees from the city and NHDES can be given to those residents that state law and local ordinance will not apply to them? Until such a document is provided, the council should not vote on an option that would allow residents with parcels close to a sewer line to decline hooking in.

State law: "...Nothing in this section shall prohibit cities, towns, or village districts, by ordinance or by regulation under RSA 147:1, from increasing the 100-foot distance contained in this section, or from granting waivers to the requirement of connection to the public sewer for properties with adequate alternative sewage disposal systems which comply with applicable state and local regulations, designed by a designer licensed in New Hampshire and approved for construction by the New Hampshire department of environmental services after January 1, 1985." (Title X, Public Health, Chapter 147)

Local ordinance: "The owner of all houses, buildings or properties used for human occupancy, recreation or other purposes is hereby required to install thereon suitable toilet facilities and provided said property abuts upon any street, alley or right of way in which there is located a public sewer and further provided that said premises are located within 150 feet of the property line abutting said street, alley or right of way, the owner shall connect said facilities with the public sewer." Section 11.203 (D) of the sewer ordinance.

<http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/files/cityclerk/ordinances/Chapter11.pdf>

Local practice: "The city's past practice of allowing of connections over time was discussed among the parties when the Peirce Island Consent was developed; the benefits of following the usual practice of the City were determined to outweigh the burdens of a different approach. (August 7, 2019 memo from Suzanne Woodland, Deputy City Attorney and Terry Desmarais, City Engineer to John Bohenko)

Goetz letter: "There are instances where properties may have a septic system and are also paying sewer bills. This is the case if your property is within 150 feet of a city sewer line as is a policy per the sewer ordinance Section 11.203 (D)" (see attached copy).

4. The problem of odor from sewage gasses

Odor for "year(s)" with a low-pressure system was a concern raised in 2011 by Wright Pierce Engineering in a letter, "Sagamore Avenue South Sewer Extension Technical Letter Report" to the city engineer:

"During the start-up year(s) for the low pressure sewer alternatives, there would be relatively long detention times in the low pressure force main. Accordingly, odor generation should be anticipated and would manifest itself at the sewer manhole where the force main(s) discharge. Capital costs have not been included for odor control approaches. This should be considered in the preliminary design phase of the project."

Odor has also been stated as a disadvantage of low-pressure systems by the EPA, confirmed by the vendor representative from FR Mahoney on 8/26/2020, and is a concern in Environmental One promotional material.

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/presewer.pdf>

<https://eone.com/sewer-systems/design-center>

Approach 3 would slowly bring new users on to the low-pressure system, resulting in low resident participation,

which will lead to low volume, weak pressure, long detention times and accompanying odor of decomposing sewage.

Let one think odor is a superficial concern, sewer gasses can make people sick depending of the concentration of chemicals in them.

Additionally, viruses and bacteria found in sewer gasses that can cause illness.

<http://www.burtonplumbingco.com/health-problems-caused-by-sewer-gas/>

There is absolutely no doubt that COVID-19 RNA is in wastewater. Many municipalities now test wastewater to predict outbreaks. There is the possibility of contagion through sewage particles that become air born because the very small viral molecules easily cling to larger particles from pollution suspended in air, especially in humidity.

<https://cph.temple.edu/about/news-events/news/can-coronavirus-spread-through-defective-bathroom-sewage-pipes>

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/sars-and-plumbing-role-sewage-plays-spreading-disease>

Acute and chronic exposure to noxious odors also creates psychosocial distress because the brain is wired to respond to these odors by signaling the nervous system of the presence of danger. This means there is a potential for mental health to be affected by repeated or chronic activation of the “flight/fight” response of the Sympathetic Nervous System. And remember, the sense of smell never turns off – it’s a first line sensory defense that monitors the environment at all times, even during sleep.

Psychological anxiety for any reason can cause the experience of things smelling bad, leading to a vicious cycle of odor and anxiety, with increased anxiety leading to a heightened sense of bad odors.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/scent>

A recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll found that more than half of all Americans -- 56% --reported that stress related to the pandemic has led to at least one negative mental health effect.

Obviously, noxious gasses are problematic in any context, but very much so during times of crisis because of their potential to amplify the stress response.

One only has to search “lawsuits related to sewer odor” to understand how detrimental these odors are to quality of life. In short, it’s wrong to expose residents and visitors to the stress and illnesses caused by sewer gasses.

5. Unclear process leading to conclusion of “resident preference” for low-pressure sewer

The 2011 Wright Pierce Engineering report mentions “resident preference” as a guiding factor in choosing a low-pressure system for the Walker-Bungalow area. The data used to generate this conclusion has not been presented. What is the evidence of “resident preference” for a low-pressure system?

Additionally, the data and their sources related to cost of a gravity system are unclear. But, based upon the Wright Pierce report it seems that a traditional gravity sewer is more cost effective for all involved zones except for Walker Bungalow Road.

6. Dissemination of water quality information about Sagamore Creek

As I understand the data, water pollution in the creek is not coming from residential septic systems, but is from business to the south and west of the creek. The July Compliance report submitted by our DPW director lists several separate payments totaling approximately \$200,000 pertaining to water quality testing in the Sagamore Creek. Although not all of these payments were made to FB Environmental, it would be good to hear from them about water quality in the creek before voting on this project.

For all the reasons I’ve stated, please delay voting on this project, as residents need more time to understand this ever changing, complex, and expensive project.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 73.149.193.192

From: [Jacqueline cali-Pitts via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Rusty
Date: Friday, September 4, 2020 7:46:31 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Jacqueline cali-Pitts (cali0917@aol.com) on Friday, September 4, 2020 at 18:46:29

address: 40 Bedford Way

comments: I would request that I be kept informed about any memorial service being planned. I worked with Rusty in various roles for almost his whole career in Portsmouth in various roles I would also like to suggest that a permanent memorial be planned including various groups Rec board, city council ,school board and various sports groups. This is a city he loved and a city that loved him. I would suggest two candidates for consideration the new field and the new bathhouse. Please keep me in the loop.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 75.68.180.157

From: [Sheridan Lloyd via FormMail.com](mailto:Sheridan.Lloyd@myfairpoint.net)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Sagamore Ave Sewer questions need answers before approval
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 4:37:23 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Sheridan Lloyd (Sheridan.Lloyd@myfairpoint.net) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 15:37:21

address: Portsmouth

comments: August 31, 2020

City of Portsmouth City Council meeting
Sagamore Avenue Sewer Extension project
Sheridan Lloyd, Sagamore Ave neighborhood resident

If a vote proceeds on implementing some level of low-pressure sewer system in the Sagamore Avenue area, there is no way to know what the actual cost is, except that it will be well over the original agreed price of \$2.5 million, and possibly higher than the \$6.1 million.

Part of the reason is that a complete plan has not been finalized.
Like building a house with only a basement plan and budget, AND no budget for the house.
Maybe the customer (EPA and DES) will accept only a basement, but then what do you have? Nothing useful for a lot of money.

The City needs a plan for the whole project, for all impacted residents before an approval is made. This is the only responsible way to proceed.

ALSO-IF the City ONLY pays for IMMEDIATE hook-up, the few neighbors that want a sewer connection in a long-term historically septic system area, are happy.

For neighbors that have been told, for decades, by the City, that sewer is NEVER going into the neighborhood, and have paid for a new septic system (as high as \$40,000), or have paid for maintaining their system all along, they are being penalized for doing right all along. All neighbors in the effected neighborhood should be given the same long-term financial outcome.

The low-pressure system puts a multi-tier financial burden on this segment of the Portsmouth residents, that is unjust, as this was mitigation for non-compliance of the waste water treatment plant.

There are still a lot of questions that have not been finalized:

Nothing has to be done when a property is sold, Correct?

Do buried tanks need to be disclosed on real estate disclosure forms? It is known that this neighborhood is septic, so are buyers going to ask, realtors going to disclose, owners going to say, anything? I would not buy a house with an abandoned system buried in the yard, tanks and all. What, a dump? A septic tank (just the tank) removal cost is approx. \$5,000. (Homeowner cost?)

What about City and/or State requirements for hook-up within certain distance of sewer? There needs to be a signed/certified document that this requirement is waived in perpetuity.

What impact will this have on property taxes? We have been told there will be a property value increase with the sewer being in the neighborhood. That would mean tax increases- for no current improvement in our houses. If we don't hook-up, we should get a tax discount, as we are not getting any improvement in current value (neither the house or property has been improved or changed). This neighborhood is not high turnover, we all live here, not interested in selling for a profit, therefore, increased value is a negative.

What is the likelihood of sewer backup in a house, and need for additional insurance?

Actually ask the simple question to each parcel owner in the neighborhood: Do you want sewer? (the survey asked: Would you hook-up?)

What is being designed into the system for known street-side smell generation?

IF we get stuck with this, an option for a BETTER LEVEL OF FINANCIAL EQUITY:

Given that the majority of systems are properly functioning, and residents are not likely to take on an unnecessary financial burden for no reason, the city should pay for grinder pump systems on properties beyond the time line of initial system installation. This would allow for City budgeting and homeowner budgeting for if, and when, the septic system needs replacing. For homeowners, there are a lot more costs than just the line to the street.

Have the current grinder pump installation paid in full by the City, as has been discussed as part of the plan.

A resident installs now, and the City will pay for another "bulk install" for a second round, in 8-10 years (reasonable "mid-point" of current need and future lifespan of current systems of 10-40 years).

Then, the City could pay for the equivalent current installation cost (say \$12,000) towards the future price, homeowner picks up the rest of the cost when they need it in 40 years.

The city, negotiated a mandated cost to a sub-set of the property owners/tax payers, without our knowledge, input or consent. This is a difficult situation for neighbors in the area, and will sadly, permanently change the character of the rural neighborhood, with the result of greater development and impact on the environment (opposite of what EPA wants). It is also a difficult situation for the council, with insufficient information and a sewer system outcome that will not result in an improvement in Sagamore Creek (the original outcome wanted).

Please delay spending approval until plans have been thought out better, and documented.

A basement in the ground (sewer line in the street) is not a good investment for anyone.

Thank you for your hard work on this vexing and disturbing situation

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 72.65.105.63

From: [Sheridan Lloyd via FormMail.com](mailto:Sheridan.Lloyd@myfairpoint.net)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Sagamore Creek pollution and Sagamore Ave Sewer
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 2:55:37 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Sheridan Lloyd (Sheridan.Lloyd@myfairpoint.net) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 13:55:35

address: Portsmouth

comments: August 31, 2020

City of Portsmouth City Council meeting
Sagamore Avenue Sewer Extension project
Sheridan Lloyd, Sagamore Ave neighborhood resident

Please delay voting on a plan for the Sagamore Avenue Sewer Extension until the following and other issues have been resolved:

I would like to bring to your attention, again, the facts of the 2016 Mitigation Requirements for the continued discharges from the WWTP, from the delayed implementation of secondary treatment. The Consent Decree states, mitigation "d":

"Sagamore Avenue Sewer Extension Project. The City shall implement, at an estimated project cost of \$2.5 million, a sewer extension project to provide public sewer service to approximately 83 existing parcels adjacent to or near Sagamore Avenue, as depicted in the February 2011 Wright-Pierce Fig. 2 titled "Town [sic.] of Portsmouth, New Hampshire Sagamore Ave South Sewer Extension Study, Low Pressure Sewer," with the intent to improve water quality in Sagamore Creek. Planning, design and other pre-construction activities for the project shall be completed prior to substantial completion of the Peirce Island WWTF upgrade project. Construction of the sewer extension project shall begin no later than June 30, 2020 and shall be substantially completed on or before June 30, 2022."

NOTE the components of the agreement: WITH the intent to improve water quality in Sagamore Creek, AND estimated cost of \$2.5 million, AND 83 existing parcels, AND construction start no later than June 30, 2020. That is 4 of the 5 components, which are not being fulfilled.

It has already been discussed and agreed by high ranking City employees and consultants, at public meetings, that the sewer will have NO effect on improving Sagamore Creek water quality- no matter the price or technology. Improved water quality is what the EPA requires.

It's obviously not going to be Only \$2.5 million- UNLESS- a high-tech solution such as the Busse system is implemented at properties that either have a failed system (maybe 4 systems), or when systems need replacing in the future- Which would keep it in the original budget. AND save \$4+ million to put towards actual projects that WILL Improve the Water Quality in Sagamore Creek.

The City has already negotiated a time delay because of Covid. Though, they originally stated it falsely, as a delay because of the City Council, which either way, they DID GET A TIME EXTENSION. And they have suggested a reduction in number of parcels.

Therefore, in good faith, this project could and should be discussed with the EPA for a better environmental outcome as well as a better financial outcome. Spending over \$6 million for nothing is wrong. Let's spend the money and have a positive outcome for the environment and the residents and the City.
Delay the vote at this time until a REAL, EFFECTIVE PLAN CAN BE DEVELOPED.

The low-pressure system puts a multi-tier financial burden on this small segment of the Portsmouth residents. This

is unjust and targeted to only a small segment of the population, and a sub-population of all properties that are near water. This was MITIGATION FOR NON-COMPLIANCE of the waste water treatment plant.

Again, please delay the vote at this time until a REAL, EFFECTIVE PLAN CAN BE DEVELOPED that WILL have a POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE QUALITY OF SAGAMORE CREEK.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 72.65.105.63

From: [Colleen Wolfe via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Support for Middle Street Bike Lanes
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 11:07:58 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Colleen Wolfe (cwolfe@drhorne.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 10:07:56

address: 30 Cate Street, Unit 8

comments: I am writing to express my support for bicycle infrastructure in Portsmouth, and in particular the Middle Street bike lane. I support the points made by SABR, as follows:

-This partially protected bicycle lane project comes out of years of work and public processes, including Portsmouth Listens groups and the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan.

-We need to improve on the bike lane and build out the network for bicyclists, not take a costly step backwards which seems motivated only by political reasons.

-Public safety experts (Police Captain Newport and Fire Chief Germain) have stated that the design makes the street significantly and measurably safer.

-Moving the lane to the driver side of parked cars puts bike riders at greater risk of being “doored” or hit by distracted drivers.

-NHDOT has stated that changes to the lane would require the repayment of major federal grant money that has already been spent. This would require taxpayers pay more than \$250,000 to go against all the professionals invoked to remove the lane.

Engineering required to undo the current viable design will cost at least another \$50,000.

-More riders are out this year than ever before, of all ages and abilities. We need to encourage that further.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 75.68.183.208

From: [Effie Malley via FormMail.com](#)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Support for Middle Street bike lanes
Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 8:56:41 AM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Effie Malley (Effie.malley@gmail.com) on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 07:56:39

address: 428 Pleasant Street

comments: I want to register my strong support for the Middle Street bike lane. My position is based on the recent data from Eric Eby's report, as well as my individual bicycling experience. I support the lane for health, safety, and as part of the overall multimodal transportation plan. I recommend denying Councilor Huda's motion for car parking being moved to the curb. I support Councilor Tabor's motion for a task force. Thank you for your consideration.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 71.233.87.81

From: [Valerie Rochon via FormMail.com](mailto:Valerie.Rochon@portsmouthcollaborative.org)
To: [Mayor Becksted](#); [CC - Splaine](#); [cc McEachern](#); [CC-Peter Whelan](#); [CC - Cliff Lazenby](#); [CC - Kennedy](#); [CC - Huda](#); [CC-John Tabor](#); [CC-Paige Trace](#); [City Council](#); [CityCouncil Clerk](#)
Subject: Support Mask Mandate
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 12:17:34 PM

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Valerie Rochon (valerie@portsmouthcollaborative.org) on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 11:17:32

address: 500 Market Street, Unit 16A

comments: TO: Mayor Becksted, City Council Members
FROM: Valerie Rochon, President, The Chamber Collaborative
DATE: 8 September 2020
RE: Support of Mask Mandate Ordinance

On July 13th of this year, I shared with the City Council the Chamber Collaborative's support of a Mask Resolution (at that time), now a Mask Mandate Ordinance for Portsmouth.

The Chamber's position has not changed, but rather our resolve is stronger in support of this mandate.

It is an unfortunate reality that the mandate has become necessary, as masks have become politicized and the subject of protests by those who believe their "rights" are being stepped upon. They can certainly exercise their rights to go mask-less, but not in our hotels, shops, restaurants, and other businesses, or when they put other people at risk by not safe distancing in public.

Science should and must prevail. The update on August 27th from the CDC clearly states: "CDC recommends that you wear masks in public settings around people who don't live in your household and when you can't stay 6 feet away from others. Masks help stop the spread of COVID-19 to others."

For our businesses, in addition to protecting staff and customers, it's about the economy, to paraphrase presidential strategist James Carville. We must keep our economy open and growing.

Those who don't wear masks put our staff and customers at risk. Those that become belligerent and bully our staff when asked to wear a mask on private property, when there is clear messaging that masks are required, put our staff and customers at even more risk. If it becomes necessary for businesses to close down because they have staff or customers that become infected with COVID, non-mask wearers put the health of those businesses and our economy at risk.

While it is impossible that our police department can or should fine every person not wearing a mask, a clear City-wide mandate, coupled with continued positive education for our residents and visitors, will go a long way to providing the credibility and reinforcement needed for reasonable people to understand the necessity.

As one hotelier told me last week, "A city mandate is necessary and will relieve much of the pressure businesses and their associates are enduring right now. "

Portsmouth has the opportunity to show leadership and a willingness to make difficult decisions when they are proven best for the majority. Thankfully, the majority are wearing masks. The reason? Science, and an acceptance that we all must do our part. It is time for the City Council to do your part, and vote in favor of a Mask Ordinance that protects those who are wearing masks, and those that refuse.

Thank you for your consideration.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

REMOTE_ADDR: 64.140.209.194