

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor Sean Reardon
 FROM: Christine Wallace, P.E., Ward 4 Councillor
 RE: Ward 4 Street, Sidewalk, and Traffic Safety Priorities
 DATE: April 19, 2023

As we begin the second year of the rolling 5-year Street Paving Plan, Wards 2, 4, and 6 have streets and sidewalks slated for construction this season. As a follow-up to my comments at recent City Council meetings, this memorandum provides a summary of the current street, sidewalk, and traffic safety priorities for Ward 4.

Ward 4 has more streets in poor condition relative to the other wards (see attached map). Due to the rolling plan being ward-based, some “poor” streets in Ward 4 will not be paved until after streets in better condition in other wards are paved. (See <https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/streets-and-sidewalks-improvement-plan>)

Ward 4 also has substantial traffic safety needs due to having a large portion of two high-traffic regional roads (High and Merrimac Streets), wide cut-through streets, proximity to the schools, proximity to the Senior Center, Anna Jaques Hospital, the City’s only Safety Zone, one of the largest parks in the City (Atkinson Common), and two large parks on either end of the ward (Moseley Woods and Cashman Park).

The list below includes streets planned for construction, other streets documented with poor conditions, areas I receive numerous calls and emails on, or areas that have previously been brought to the attention of the Mayor and/or City Council. This list is not in any particular order and does not include all the needs in Ward 4.

Street Paving/Sidewalk Improvement Priorities

- Streets Planned for 2023(FY24) – **Plummer Ave, Christopher Street, Willow Ave, Arlington Street**
- Streets Planned for 2025 (FY 26) and 2027 (FY28) – **Adams, Ashland Ct, Butler, California, Dawes, Farrell, Munroe, Coolidge, Tyng, and Ashland Street**
- Other Larger Cut-Through Streets Not in Plan Listed in “Poor” condition (see attached slide from the BETA Dec. 2019 public presentation) – **Forrester, Woodland, Oakland, Tyng**
- Other Smaller Streets Not in Plan Listed in “Poor” condition – **Highland, Howard, Chapel, Collins, Dexter, Payson**

Traffic Safety Priorities

- **Merrimac Street** – Add sidewalk (route to a park), traffic calming, accessible crossings, signage, RRFB pedestrian light at Safety Zone at Lower Atkinson from Moulton to Plummer. Traffic calming, crossing/markings/signage improvements throughout Merrimac.
- **Moseley Avenue** – Add sidewalk to complete connection to roundabout (route to a park), traffic calming, crossings/markings/signage improvements.
- **Rawson Avenue** – Add sidewalk (route to a school), crossings/markings/signage improvements.
- **High Street** – Three Roads improvements project is in the planning phase. A grant for traffic calming from Three Roads to past Myrtle is due for construction before June 30 of this year. Need crosswalks returned that were removed during 2019 construction (near Myrtle, North Atkinson, Woodland), and need crossing/signage/markings improvements throughout High Street.
- **North Atkinson Street (Wards 4/5)** – Traffic calming, add sidewalk to complete connection from Low Street to Bresnahan driveway (route to a school).
- **Tracy Street** – Add sidewalk (route to a school).
- **Jefferson Street** – Requests for traffic-calming retrofits and a good candidate for demonstration projects.
- **Streets near Hospital** – Evaluate traffic patterns in the neighborhoods around the hospital to determine improvements to bus routes, marked emergency and employee routes, wayfinding signage, crossings/signage/markings, and traffic calming.
- **Coffin Street** – Need solutions to provide space for emergency vehicles and safe access at dead-end.

Repairs Needed

- **Savory Street** – Short term pavement/drainage structure fix to remove large ponded area. Longer-term fix to improve road and drainage conditions throughout the street.

Pavement Conditions Map

