



Public Meeting Summary

To: Andrew MacNichol, Community Development Director
Olivia Knightly, Senior Planner
Town of Reading

From: Lisa Juan, PE
Peyton Graham
Liam Maher
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Date: Monday, January 19, 2026

Subject: Walkers Brook Drive Public Meeting (January 14, 2026) Summary

Attendance: A total of 26 people signed in; some people may not have signed in. About 20 attendees through Zoom.

General Summary

- Concerns about Main Street and Walkers Brook Drive connectivity.
- Concerns that bicyclists and pedestrians can only use one section of Walkers Brook Drive, with no connection to other parts of the town. How will this project connect to the Town of Wakefield?
- In the existing counts, there is low pedestrian usage. The cost for this project, including the engineering and construction, seems costly to see the improvements and understand the benefits. However, people stated that those who live close by would use the facilities more if the infrastructure were “safe.” In today’s conditions, many feel that the corridor is not walkable. They would like to walk to stores but do not feel comfortable, therefore, they drive.
- Residents would like to walk along Walkers Brook Drive to Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield.
- Main Street included a lane reduction, and some people did not feel there was an improvement, and some feel safer to enter Main Street from the side street and confirmed the efficiency of lane reduction and changes.
- The change from a 4-lane to a 3-lane (1 lane in each direction with turn lanes), feel the efficiency of the through movements would decrease and will have more delays and queues.
- There are a lot of cut-throughs along Walkers Brook Drive and would be good to try and eliminate those type of trips. By converting General Way to a northbound right-turn only, it helped prevent cut-through. However, folks would still make a northbound left-turn movement even though it is prohibited.
- How much funding does the Town have to put forward to fund the Project? How will it impact residents’ tax dollars?
- With the proposed alternative, Alternative 2 – shared use path, would use the shoulders as on-road bicycle lane.
- Will there be improvements underneath the bridge/under the I-95 interchange since it is within MassDOT’s jurisdiction?
- Close off Stop & Shop right-in/right-out driveway and make vehicles use New Crossing Road.



- On the north side of Walkers Brook Drive, prefer a landscape buffer over a larger sidewalk.
- Walkers Brook Drive at General Way/Lakeview Avenue
 - Does not like any of the Alternatives that is currently being shown. Difficult to travel from Lakeview Avenue to Market Basket.
 - Some opposition to the roundabout, and if there is a roundabout, would prefer a roundabout with a bypass lane.
 - Some prefer the signal option.
 - Align Lakeview Avenue and General Way.
 - Combine John Street into Lakeview Avenue
 - Close off Lakeview Avenue and John Street and go to Green Street but mixed feedback
 - GPS/Delivery gets John Street and Lakeview Avenue confused a lot right now, so consolidating may help.
 - Potential concerns for pedestrian crossing at roundabouts.

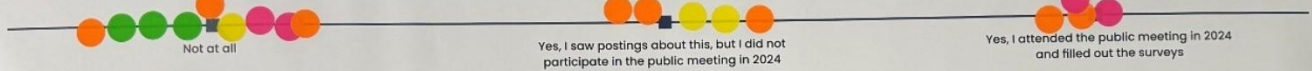
Action Items

- Send raw public survey Excel spreadsheet to Resident Thomasskin@hotmail.com – Kimley-Horn coordinate with the Town of Reading on request
- Evaluate north side of Walkers Brook Drive Alternative 2 for addition of landscape buffer and decrease width of sidewalk
- Send Eastern Gateway development to Resident naomil1@verizon.net – Kimley-Horn will email
- Continue to explore ideas at Lakeview Avenue at John Street such as routing traffic to John Street and limit Lakeview Avenue access – Kimley-Horn
- Develop transitions of the multimodal shared use path at both ends of the corridor – Kimley-Horn
- Convey the TIP funding and Town's contribution, such as police details, MOT, & etc – Kimley-Horn
- Better wayfinding because there is a walking trail by REI along Salem Street, but it is hidden – Town of Reading
- Need to show better connectivity between the municipalities, showing the pedestrian and bicycle connectivity in the existing and "planned" networks to emphasize the regional connectivity. Illustrate what the Town of Wakefield is doing and how this project can lead to connections to that and Main Street – Kimley-Horn & Town of Reading

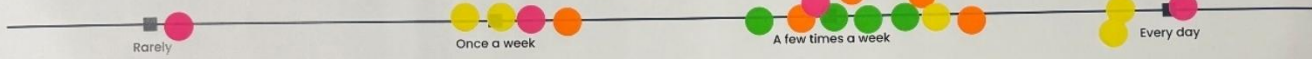


Public Input

WERE YOU INVOLVED, OR WERE YOU AWARE OF THE PREVIOUS PHASE IN 2023/2024?



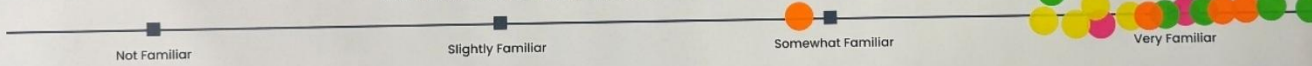
HOW OFTEN DO YOU TRAVEL ALONG WALKERS BROOK DRIVE?



WHEN YOU VISIT WALKERS BROOK DRIVE, WHAT IS YOUR TYPICAL DESTINATION?



HOW FAMILIAR ARE YOU WITH NAVIGATING A ROUNDABOUT SAFELY?



WHAT POTENTIAL BENEFITS DO YOU SEE IN CONNECTING LAKEVIEW AVENUE AND JOHN STREET?
(SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)



WHAT TYPES OF MULTIMODAL IMPROVEMENTS WOULD MAKE IT EASIER AND MORE ATTRACTIVE FOR YOU TO CHOOSE DIFFERENT WAYS OF TRAVELING?
(SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

