

Article 37 General Petition –
West Bay Road Pedestrian Improvements
Atkins Corner Neighborhood Petitioner- Rob Clafin

History – Sidewalks & Crosswalks

The request for sidewalk and crosswalk access on West Bay Road has been as long hoped for as changes to the intersection design at Atkins Corner. Information and discussion about the problems in this area go back to 1985. During the early 2000 - 2009 period, many neighborhood meetings were held to discuss planning details. The needs included:

- Increased safety for vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians,
- Development of effective methods for dealing with the increased level of traffic,
- Reducing traffic on Country Corners Road, Rambling Road and Spencer Drive,
- Increasing options for safe foot traffic,
- Introducing methods to slow/calm traffic on the residential side of West Bay Road from Atkins Farms Country Market to Rambling Road.

Citizen Petition Article # 37 - Amherst Town Meeting – Spring 2016

To see if the Town of Amherst will create safe crossings (crosswalks & sidewalks) of West Bay Road for the students, seniors, bicyclists and residents of the Atkins Corner Neighborhood between the residences, institutions and businesses on the north and south sides of the road by:

1. Creating a pedestrian crosswalk at the level of the Hampshire College planned pathway from the area of the Yiddish Book Center to Atkins Farms Country Market,
2. Creating a bus pull-off in this area on the north side of West Bay Road so that the bus patrons will not have to wait in the street,
3. Creating a sidewalk on the south side of West Bay Road connecting the pathway from Atkins Farms Country Market to Rambling Road,
4. Creating a pedestrian crosswalk from the existing sidewalk on Rambling Road across West Bay Road to the north side at the Eric Carle Museum,
5. Creating a sidewalk on the north side of West Bay Road connecting this crosswalk to the existing path into the Eric Carle Museum that leads to the PVTA bus stop,
6. Developing appropriate signage for traffic calming in this area of West Bay Road.

This plan would enhance safe crossing of busy West Bay Road connecting the people and institutions on both sides of the road, supported by appropriate signage. It is an important link of the Cultural Trails System under development by Peter Westover of Conservation Works in concert with Hampshire College and the Hitchcock Center for the Environment.

Summary

This petition supports smooth and safe access to local business such as Atkins Farms Country Market and area museums and ground transportation. It is a village center model.

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Ortho Photos from
Mass GIS 2009

-  Existing Trails
-  Proposed Trails
-  Proposed Crosswalks

Proposed Crosswalks 2016

0 100 200 400 600 800
Feet

Conservation Works - February 2016

