



*Town of*  
*Amherst* Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Hall  
4 Boltwood Avenue  
Amherst, MA 01002-2351

Phone: (413) 259-3002  
Fax: (413) 259-2405  
townmanager@amherstma.gov  
www.amherstma.gov

**TO:** PLANNING BOARD, DEPARTMENT  
DESIGN REVIEW BOARD  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
DISABILITY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**FROM:** PETER I. HECHENBLEIKNER, TEMPORARY TOWN MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** CROSSWALK DESIGN

**DATE:** 5/18/2016

*P.H.*

In my several months working in Amherst there have been a number of instances where crosswalk design and condition of crosswalks in downtown have been discussed. Many of the older installations are in need of repair, there was an experiment on South Pleasant Street with a new type of crosswalk painted material (which is already wearing through), and there is a concern that the combination of 3 materials as used in downtown leads to more accelerated deterioration than some other options.

The construction on Amity Street near the Library creates a situation whereby we either install the traditional type of crosswalk with an understanding that the standard design may change, or we install something else. In that instance I have authorized the DPW Director to install a simple painted crosswalk on pavement, with an understanding that a new standard of crosswalk may in the future require remediation in this location.

In order to review the options for downtown crosswalks and either develop a new standard or confirm the current 3 material design, I would like to have a process convened with all stakeholders, to develop and evaluate alternatives and come up with a preferred alternative. In June I will be recommending to the Select Board the creation of an umbrella organization, to be called the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), to review and coordinate all transportation issues for the Town and to advise the Town Manager and the Select Board on all transportation matters. I will ask the TAC to coordinate this review of crosswalk designs as one of their earlier tasks.

I wanted to let you know of this at this time in order that you not be surprised as the Amity Street work progresses.