

Appendix C - Munsill Avenue Scoping Study, Bristol Open-Ended Survey Comments

This document includes:

- Open-ended comments from the Local Concerns Survey
- Open-ended comments from the Alternatives Survey
- Project-related comments emailed to the Town Administrator

OPEN ENDED COMMENTS FROM THE LOCAL CONCERNS SURVEY

1. I'd vote for a one way street. Sidewalk on one side.
2. I feel strongly that this project should be on the East side. Much of the reasoning for the sidewalk is for the Bristol Works employees and people accessing the police station or Mountain Health. Such a large portion of the sidewalk on the East side would be going through Bristol Works property. It only makes sense to have the fewest residential properties disturbed as possible, and have Bristol Works take the brunt of the property infringement.

Thanks for the thoughtful planning and information on this.

3. Regarding the curbed sidewalk... people often parallel park along Munsill ave with the car straddling the road-lawn interface. A curbed sidewalk would eliminate this parking option, forcing people to park entirely in the road and dramatically restricting the flow of traffic unless the road is widened to accommodate on-street parking.

As a traffic-calming measure (and to accommodate the sidewalk while reducing impact on abutting landowners/plantings, etc), can the roadway be narrowed to still allow 2-way traffic and place part of the sidewalk project within the existing roadway? Hair-brained, I know, but I gotta ask...

Thanks for all the work.

4. Some of the spots have very poor drainage and puddles. Attention to that will be important.
5. I think set back with a buffer strip is ideal, but recognize that residents may not want to give up that much land, so right next to the roadway and curbed might be more friendly to residents
6. I think we should be using money to replace the sidewalks that need repair instead of adding new sidewalks
7. Pine st needs sidewalk before Munsill Ave.

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OPEN ENDED COMMENTS FROM THE LOCAL CONCERNS SURVEY (CONTINUED)

8. On the side of Thad's company an telecom put the sidewalk
9. The sidewalk on the east side is already established. In my opinion I don't believe munsill ave gets enough pedestrian traffic to justify a project of this scale. Bristol has more important places for tax payers money. Thank you
10. Do not support this, also current sidewalk and drainage on West Pleasant needs work
11. Police traffic and there speed is the main and only issue on munsill ave that would have grounds to even consider a sidewalk. Also there would be to much loss of front lawn sq footage especially with the rate that taxes have gone and keep going up. most pedestrian traffic goes east and then south on maple street anyhow. So mainly no sidewalk
12. The town of Bristol can't even care for the sidewalks it has now !!!!

It's been fine for over a hundred years no need for change now

Most people in town don't even use the existing sidewalk anyways
13. No
14. No sidewalk. If anything should be considered it should be pine street adding a crosswalk to the main parking lot used for Bristol Works and/or a shuttle service for the workers. Also agree with a previous comment about the upkeep of the already existing sidewalks and the plowing concerns that come with another new one on a already narrow street
15. I think a sidewalk is a good idea but I also think that we should pay off other debts and put funds aside for this project. Hopefully cost of materials will be much more reasonable if we wait. Lets stop spending for a couple years.
16. I would like to see good sidewalks (or walk/bike zones) on every street, but I there might be more traveled roads to prioritize (like Pine) and I would hate to take too much land or trees from the residents. I hope any project moving forward takes into account competing priorities and lots of feedback from Munsill Ave residents about what it would mean for their property/quality of life. Using a walk/bike zone painted onto the road with signs and enforcement (while transitioning) might be a good alternative for right now.
17. Better places to spend money in this economy
18. The people of Munsill Ave have flourished without a sidewalk and will continue to do so.

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19. Living on Munsill, I have noticed most walkers are on the eastern side of the street, I assume that they are either coming from the more populated center of town along Pleasant Street and turn onto Munsill, or they're walking from downtown or the Creeme Stand and take the right turn to stay on the eastern side of the road.

A curbed sidewalk, one that is right up against the road, is in my opinion best for Munsill Avenue. First, it will be a less obtrusive to the people living there and will it preserve most of the trees and landscaping features that gives the street its charm, not to mention preserving the property values of its residents. Second, winter snowplows tends to wander widely down the street and by Spring they have generally removed 2-3 feet of sod/grass and gouged into the ground so badly that it takes the rest of the summer to repair. A curbed road would help reduce that kind of damage to the properties and hopefully keep the snowplows in line.

I also want to mention the corner of Munsill and West Street (Thad's Auto corner lot,) the length of the crosswalk is quite a span for children walking it every day. Yes, it makes for a gentler turn coming from the west, but I've seen people scramble because a turning vehicle is coming up rapidly. I hope that a correction that shortens that crosswalk will be dealt with along with the sidewalk plans.

20. I believe that we should not have a sidewalk but a bike/walk lane. A sidewalk will NOT slow traffic but a bike/walk lane (like what will be happening on Pine Street) will be more beneficial. We should look at ways to SLOW traffic instead of looking at this project as a connectivity project from Bristol Works to West. We have sidewalks throughout the Village and if you really observe, lots of people DO NOT walk on the sidewalks where there are sidewalks. This project should look more closely at the needs and wants of our community as a whole. Bikers tend not to use sidewalks, therefore we should look at bike/walk lanes throughout the Village and that should be the focus on Munsill. Thank you.
21. The issues with Munsill Ave. (speed of traffic, people not stopping for the stop signs) are due to people visiting Bristol Works. Any work done to Munsill should address that traffic directly. Sidewalks don't do that...they avoid the issues posed by that traffic. As a resident on Munsill, we would like to see greater enforcement of speed limits, stop signs, etc. along with other traffic calming initiatives. A sidewalk here seems like a misplaced initiative/use of tax dollars, when the sidewalk on Liberty isn't finished yet.

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OPEN ENDED COMMENTS FROM THE ALTERNATIVES SURVEY

1. I see people walking on the east side almost exclusively. This seems to be the natural preference for folks. Drainage is needed at the corner of Munsill and West Pleasant.
2. As a homeowner on Munsill, there is no need for a sidewalk. We have more people riding bikes on Munsill than walking. And those that walk on Munsill continue to walk in the road all throughout the Village.
3. No need for any sidewalks. It has worked fine for several years with no issues the way it is.
4. What about all other streets without sidewalks? I daily walk around Bristol on streets without sidewalks and feel very safe. Money wasted to install sidewalks when there have been no problems.
5. What is the actual pedestrian volume per day/week/month? How does this compare with other streets? What is the history of accidents on Munsill Ave that have resulted in personal harm that can be directly attributed to the lack of sidewalks? Are there other streets (Pine, for instance) where the expenditure of this money would result in safety for the greater portion of the populace?
6. I'd rather see the money spent for Pine St, Liberty St and Devino lane sidewalks or even Airport Rd to the High School.
7. What about sidewalk on parking-lot- side of cedars at Bristol Works? Options that eliminate or restrict on-street parking are less favorable than options that allow continued parking along the street. Curbs will be problematic for that reason. Not sure how the advisory paint option pairs with on-street parking.
8. Let us not spend anymore money right now!!
9. Question 6: How temporary is temporary? I think it's worth a try and would allow more time for the final plan re: sidewalks and then allow folks an opportunity to conceptualize better a final result.
10. Thank you.
11. I must have missed earlier information for this. I'd rather see a sidewalk on Pine Street before installing a sidewalk on Munsill.

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OPEN ENDED COMMENTS FROM THE ALTERNATIVES SURVEY (CONTINUED)

12. Shade and trees keep the small town character of Bristol. I have more concerns about pedestrians on Pine Street. Walkers on both sides, electric balance skateboards, and student drop off at North street with them walking 4 abreast down road.
13. Let's try to save as many trees as possible. Thanks!
14. As far as the shrubs/fence, I would do whatever is cheaper.
15. Thanks for this wonderful survey. I'd really like to try the painted advisory option. It would be good to see how this works. It might easily slow the traffic and make it the safest choice. I recommend listening to two minutes of the following podcast (actually the whole podcast is interesting) about no sidewalks in Japan starting at 13:28 minutes in.
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/505-first-errand/id394775318?i=1000577840920>
Thank you again. Great survey, great graphics!
16. Strongly against tree removal. Trees provide important shade in our warming climate, and make walking on Munsill in summer bearable, especially for the elderly and children.
17. If the town was going to spend the money for a sidewalk, I'd rather see one put in on Pine Street. There is way more pedestrian use there.
18. Thank you for these thoughtful and clearly defined options. I think it's worth trying the inexpensive and flexible option of using paint advisory lanes, and if those don't work to people's satisfaction then re-examining the other options.
19. Bristol can't even maintain the sidewalk's now!!! Why put more in? there's got to be a better way to spend tax money or grant money.
20. I very rarely come across any traffic when biking or walking along Munsill. And when I am driving, I rarely come across pedestrians
21. Spend the money on the walks that need repair > that already exist

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PROJECT-RELATED COMMENTS EMAILED TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

1. I think it's a great idea. We could use a sidewalk on Munsill Ave. Especially since we're on the same street as the police dept. They often go very fast when they're heading to a call and it would be good to have a safety buffer.

I think it would be best on the East side of the street for these reasons:

- There are more mature trees that we would have to cut down if it was on the West side of the street.
 - Having it on the East side would be a straight shot from Thads to the Bristol Works complex.
 - I do not think it should cross back and forth. As a parent of a small child, fewer crosswalks is the safest option.
2. My feelings are if the residents want a new sidewalk on Munsill Ave then the town needs to put in place and enforce it– an ordinance that states people must use the sidewalks or face a fine. No more walking in the streets where sidewalks are available. Money for taxes comes hard without spending it on something the people don't use. Ordinance or no new sidewalks and no more maintenance of them. Use them or else
 3. You should come up mountain street just about anytime of the day. People will be walking in the road anywhere from two to as many as four or five wide with no regard to the condition the sidewalk is usable or not. It's only a matter of time before someone is going to get hit. In the winter the sidewalk is plowed and sanded almost immediately after a storm and most people still refuse to use it. As I previously stated, how can the town justify spending money on more sidewalks or maintenance of them if people are not going to use them.
 4. There is no sense in this town spending tax dollars to build new sidewalks or maintain the present ones unless this town is ready to impose a sidewalk use policy. When you have people walking in the street and ignoring the sidewalks in that area, spending more money on new sidewalks is not the answer. It's only a matter of time before someone will be hit and killed walking in the streets. Get the people out of the streets and onto the existing sidewalks first.