

Streetscape Discussion at Board of Selectmen Meeting
June 20, 2001
Town Office Building, Board of Selectmen Meeting Room

Jay Emperor, the town's consultant, gave a general overview of two options.

Option A was four lanes of traffic through the retail area, a raised planted median on Massachusetts Avenue near the Town Office Building, and widened sidewalks along the south side of Massachusetts Avenue.

Option B was one lane in each direction with a dedicated turning lane, a flush median near the Town Office Building, some sidewalks widened on the south side of Massachusetts Avenue, new brick sidewalks from Merriam Street to Woburn Street, and additional tree planting.

The plans generated considerable discussion, including how to balance traffic flow with the safety needs of pedestrians and bicyclists as well as aesthetic concerns. There was no overall consensus but all seemed to like the redesign of the Woburn Street, Fletcher Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue intersection and the Selectmen felt that design work for the north side from Merriam Street to Woburn Street could go forward. This would include a grading survey, selection of materials and schematic design. There was discussion of doing a simulation study of the two options, but that was left open.