

Town of Portland Complete Streets

A safer and more accessible community for all



2016

Portland started the process to develop its
Complete Street Policy
Signed into policy in 2018

Portland's Vision:

To improve the streets of Portland making them safer and more accessible for all users including

- Pedestrians
- Cyclists
- People with mobility challenges
- Transit users
- Motorists

Policy Goals

- ▣ Over the past two years, goals were developed to gradually transform Portland from a community known for automobile travel, to one that invests in transportation equality across all modes of transportation to benefit all citizens.
- ▣ Committees were organized to begin work on a new policy and start the process of planning, designing and the start of construction.

Priority Goals Identified

- ▣ Work with DOT to make roads safer by increasing capacity while decreasing the severity of accidents.
- ▣ Establish healthier lifestyle choices by providing safe walking and bicycling options.
- ▣ Promote a Complete Street Culture through education and events such as bike rides and trail walks.
- ▣ Encourage our private sector to contribute to a more well-designed community which can benefit from new development.
- ▣ Connect with our surrounding towns and their action groups related to Complete Streets.

Network Connectivity

- ▣ Months of investigation on identifying gaps in sidewalks as well as our trail network with the goal of a smooth and safe transition to our schools, economic development and recreational areas.
- ▣ Many improvements were identified and prioritized based on our findings. A bond approved in 2018 provided funding to make repairs of 2 miles of sidewalk. These safety improvements were completed in July of 2020.
- ▣ A Connectivity Grant applied for in 2019 to improve additional sidewalks along our state owned roadways was awarded. This work will be completed by end of 2020.
- ▣ Additional crosswalks, ADA ramps, site lines and stopping distances were improved.

Main Street



Trinity Church





Airline Trail

- ▣ Our Airline Trail was completed in 2018 which provides unprecedented connectivity across the southern part of our town for bicyclists and pedestrians. Additional multi-use pathways are under review that will connect our trails further North and South.
- ▣ Parking lot improvements to the Trail head and additional shaded areas and rest stops were added in 2020.
- ▣ Our Boy Scouts have joined to assist in the building of benches and a new flag pole.

New Bike Routes

- ▣ The committee explored a new bike route that travels a loop from our downtown area through rural Portland. This route provides a medium degree of difficulty including some gradual hills.
- ▣ Signage was installed along the route in 2019 with the help of DOT along Route 17A and Route 17.
- ▣ The new route is used daily by avid cyclists.
- ▣ A new downtown loop has been developed to encourage families and children to explore cycling along a flat and friendly route. This is planned to be completed by Spring 2021.

New Downtown Bike Route



RT 66/17 Corridor Study

- ▣ The State controls three principle transportation corridors which traverse Portland. They are Route 66, Route 17A and Route 17. The town has been working with DOT to consider improvements within these areas. Improvements have already been made to lane widths and rumble strips.
- ▣ Improving bicycle and pedestrian access is now being considered in all planning and construction along these routes.
- ▣ Private utilities have been encouraged to get involved to include our Complete Streets goals for improvements whenever possible.

Speed Control

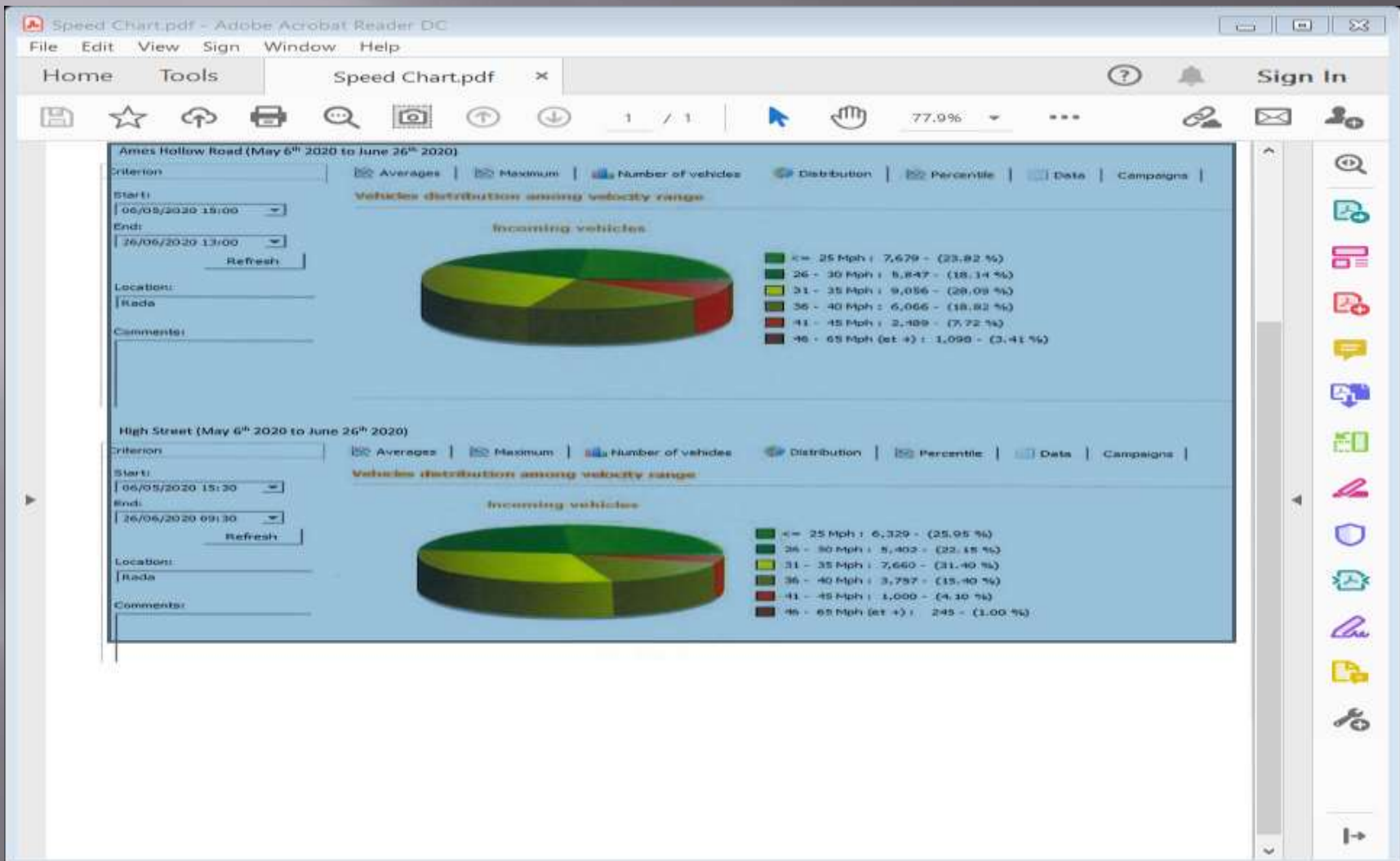
- ▣ The committee also works closely with DOT and our public safety agencies to identify problem areas within our town and to reduce speed and increase safety.
- ▣ Based on a speed control audit, two digital signs were installed in 2019 providing critical traffic data. During the following six months, speed has reduced in both areas resulting in less accidents.
- ▣ Additional investigation is being conducted along our state roads and areas identified as high accident locations.



Crash Data 2015-2019



Speed Data



Challenges



Future

- ▣ 2020 Connectivity Grant – There has been a request to connect urban sections east of our town center. This construction connects a large population of families and children to important resources including food, schools, churches and a bus shelter for transportation.
- ▣ Future plans for the expansion of our Airline Trail will also connect to this area providing uninterrupted travel to our trails.