

**TOWN OF WESTON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Project Submission Form – FY24**  
**Summary Form**

**Submission Date:** September 12, 2023

**Project Name:** Ash Street Walkway Construction

**Project Address:** n/a

**Brief Project Description:** Construction of a 5’ wide walkway with a total length of approximately 1,500’ comprised of approximately 800’ of stone dust trail and 700’ of paved asphalt connecting the existing Ash Street walkway and trails, which currently terminate at the MWRA reservoir bridge, by extending them northward to a connection with the existing Legacy Trail at the Case Estates, thereby providing a continuous safe walkway the length of the corridor.

**Contact Person:** Jason Lavoie, PE  
**Contact Title:** Town Engineer  
**Contact Phone #:** 781-786-5115  
**Contact Email Address:** [Lavoie.j@westonma.gov](mailto:Lavoie.j@westonma.gov)

**Contact Mailing Address:** Town of Weston  
 190 Boston Post Road By-Pass, Weston, MA 02493

**Sponsoring Organization (e.g., Conservation Commission):** Traffic & Sidewalk Committee

**Eligibility - Only activities designated in “Yes” boxes, below, are eligible uses of CPA Funds. Please mark the box, or boxes, that apply:**

	Open Space	Historic Resources	Recreational Land	Community Housing
Acquire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Create	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Preserve	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Support	No	No	No	Yes
Rehabilitate and/or Restore	Yes, if acquired or created with CPA funds	Yes	Yes	Yes, if acquired or created with CPA funds
Administrative Fund Request	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Projected Cost (Please add information for additional fiscal years as necessary):**

Fiscal Year	Total Project Cost	CPC Funds Requested	Other Funding Sources (amount and source)
2017-2022 (prior)	\$130,000	\$105,000 (feasibility/design)	~\$25,000 DPW in-house
2023 (prior)	\$20,000	\$0 (revised design)	~\$20,000 DPW in-house
<b>2024</b>	\$436,000	<b>\$420,000 (construction)</b>	~\$16,000 DPW in-house
2025	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total:</b>	\$586,000	\$525,000	~\$61,000

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOWN OF WESTON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE</b> <b>Project Submission Form – FY24</b> <b>Application</b></p>
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**Please address the following questions/categories using additional sheets as necessary.**

- 1. Goals/Community Need:** What are the goals of the proposed project? Who will benefit and why? Does the project address needs identified in existing Town plans?

*The goal of the project is to provide a safe and accessible means of walking between existing walkways and trails at the Weston Reservoir and the Legacy Trail at the Case Estates, thereby completing a key missing link in the broader pedestrian/bicycle network of Weston. Ash Street is an important north/south corridor connecting neighborhoods and recreational assets on the south side of town with educational and recreational assets in the School Street/Wellesley Street corridor, including the Town Center. The project would be the fourth walkway project funded by CPA and included as one of the six walkway sections described in the Town's 2010 Sidewalk Master Plan. The project is centrally located in Weston and will benefit all residents who wish to enjoy two of the Town's signature existing open space and recreational areas via the new trail and walkway.*

*The project addresses needs identified in the Town's approved 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan, which notes that during its public participation process "... residents commented that sometimes it is difficult to get to parks and open spaces safely because of the lack of sidewalks and footpaths." The project is also consistent with the high priority goals outlined in the Open Space and Recreation Plan's Seven Year Action Plan, specifically Goal 4 of that plan which states: "Improve access to and connectivity among open spaces, recreational facilities, and other important town resources."*

*Revisions to the project design since 2021 provides for more of the walkway to be constructed as a stone dust trail through the wooded area east of the roadway, which results in a project that will better preserve the semi-rural character of Weston and better preserve the scenic view corridor of Ash Street.*

*The walkway creates new recreation space while extending the reach and utility of the existing discontinuous walkways and trails in the corridor. The connectivity created by the project enhances the broader pedestrian and bicycle network and opens the pedestrian network of the corridor to a wider range of users of varying ages and abilities.*

*The extensive outreach and collaboration with stakeholder committees and groups in town regarding the walkway alignment, combined with the straightforward design and DPW's proven experience overseeing construction of other walkways, gives the project a high likelihood of success.*

- 2. Project Timeline:** Describe project milestones and when they will be completed.

*Prior phases of the project were the engineering survey and feasibility study/conceptual engineering completed with CPA FY17 funding, and the early final design, which was advanced using CPA FY19 funding and completed by the DPW in FY21. CPA funding was approved by CPC for construction of that design but the Warrant to implement that*

*design failed to pass at the May 2021 Town Meeting. Further input on the design of the project was obtained from stakeholders in 2022 and 2023 leading to a revised walkway alignment with a higher percentage as stone dust trail away from the road, and a lower percentage as asphalt and curb. If funded, the construction of the revised Ash Street walkway would proceed over approximately 4-6 months beginning in Spring 2024 with anticipated opening by Fall of 2024.*

- 3. Community and Municipal Support:** Describe the nature and level of support for and/or opposition to this project. Additionally, ***all applicants must submit the attached acknowledgement executed by the Town Manager.***

*During the design process the DPW and the Traffic & Sidewalk Committee worked to inform abutters and other stakeholders throughout development of the plans through email, committee meetings, and site walks. We coordinated with the Legacy Trail project on Case Estates and public meetings were held with key stakeholders, such as Tree Advisory Group (TAG) and Sustainability Committee between May/2023 and August/2023, as well as TAG site walks in April/2023, May/2023, June/2023 and August/2023 to help inform and discuss to create the best alignment for this walkway. Town Engineer met two different Arborists onsite in September, October, and December of 2022. Revisions to the design are being made by the Department of Public Works to incorporate all the input from the meetings and site walks noted above.*

- 4. Budget:** Provide a line-item budget and an explanation of how the budget was prepared. Include backup documentation including any proposals for services, professional cost estimates, etc. For community housing development projects, provide phased sources and uses of funds.

*Final design is ongoing and being conducted in-house by DPW, therefore bids have not yet been advertised and opened prior to this application submission. The current cost estimate is created from the engineer's estimate of quantities and past unit prices for walkway construction in Weston, accounting for differences in scope and construction cost inflation. Conservation and Planning approvals have not yet been sought but are planned. Conversations with the Town Planner and Conservation Commission Agent have been ongoing and based on those conversations no objections were identified, and permitting approval by these boards is anticipated. Bids are anticipated to be advertised with a bid opening prior to the CPC vote to recommend projects for consideration at the November Special Town Meeting. At that point, the request will be revised to match the lowest responsible bid, The costs shown below include the engineer's estimate of construction cost plus contingency percentage of 20%, appropriate to the current level of design.*

• Construction cost	\$350,000
• Contingency (20%)	\$ 70,000
• <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$420,000</b>

- 5. Other Funding Sources:** In addition to CPA Funds, what other funding sources are available, committed, or under consideration? Include commitment letters and describe any other attempts to secure public or private funding for this project.

*The Weston DPW has provided a significant amount of in-house engineering expertise and time to obtain stakeholder input and advance the design. Most recently, DPW*

*organized or participated in a total of 30 meetings and site walks pertaining to the project since November of 2022. Additionally, DPW provided design and engineering drafting time. Wetland delineation was completed in 2022, and additional field survey work was completed. The funding for the planning and engineering completed to date is a mix of Traffic and Sidewalk, DPW in-house and previous town warrant appropriations.*

- 6. Implementation:** Identify the person/persons responsible for project implementation and describe his/her/their relevant experience.

*The Weston Department of Public Works will oversee design and construction phases. They regularly oversee the Town's major horizontal construction projects, including roadway and sidewalk reconstruction completed in public ways. It is anticipated that DPW will provide project management services to oversee construction of the Ash Street Walkway project using in-house resources.*

- 7. Comparable Projects:** List and describe any comparable projects.

*Brown/Winter walkway (construction completed in 2016)  
Merriam St walkway (construction completed in 2020)  
Legacy Trail at Case Estates (construction completed in 2020)*

- 8. Operations/Maintenance:** If the project is revenue-generating, provide a 5-year operating budget. If the project will not generate revenue but ongoing maintenance will be required, provide a 5 year budget with funding sources identified. (CPA funds cannot be used for maintenance). Identify the person(s)/entity responsible for operations/maintenance.

*The new walkway will require ongoing maintenance to include Spring clean-up and Fall clean-up, as is currently done for the existing Ash Street walkway that the project will connect with on the south, and the existing Legacy Trail that the project will connect with on the north. The Weston Department of Public Works will accommodate this minor increase in walkway mileage using existing equipment and staff resources. Tom Cullen, Director of Weston Department of Public Works, is responsible for operations and maintenance of Town-owned roadways and walkways.*

- 9. Multiple Projects:** Sponsors with multiple proposals should prioritize them here.

*Ash Street Walkway (this application) is the Traffic & Sidewalk Committee's # 1 priority.*

- 10. Provide Supporting Documentation as Applicable:**

- a. Evidence of Site Control (e.g., purchase and sale agreement);**

*The project is located entirely within public rights-of-way with about half of the alignment adjacent to Ash Street within Town-owned right of way (Ash Street) and Town-owned properties (Case Estates). The other half of the alignment is on land controlled by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). Weston DPW discussions with MWRA regarding the proposed stone dust trail portion of the alignment on MWRA land have been very positive and they do not see any issues with it.*

**b. Feasibility Studies;**

*A feasibility study, including a land survey to establish the boundaries of the Town-owned right of way, was completed under a previous CPA appropriation, and was updated using DPW funds to include the latest alignment for the trail and walkway.*

**c. Appraisal;**

*NA*

**d. Letters of Support;**

*See attached.*

**e. Maps;**

*The proposed Ash Street Walkway alignment is depicted in the attached sketch. Additional figures and graphics depicting and describing the proposed project will be provided at follow-up presentations to the CPC.*

Overview Sketch – Proposed Ash Street Walkway



**f. Statistics; and**

*NA*

**g. Other Relevant Information.**

*NA*

TOWN OF WESTON  
Community Preservation Committee, P. O. Box 378, Weston, MA 02493

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONSULTATION WITH THE TOWN  
MANAGER AND OTHER RELEVANT GROUPS

Please indicate the date(s) of each consultation with Town boards, committees, and/or departments undertaken at the Town Manager's direction:

<u>Board/Committee/Department</u>	<u>Date(s) of Consultation</u>
1) Imai Aiu (Town Planner)	January – June, 2023
2) Conservation Administrator	January, 2023
3) Lori Hess (TAG and PB interests)	April, 2023
4) Tree Advisory Group meeting	May, 2023
5) Tree Advisory Group site walks	April – August, 2023
6) Sustainable Weston Action Group	May 2023

Town Manager:

  
Leon A. Gaumond Jr.

Date:

9/11/23