

- Meeting:** 2026 Pathways – Highland Drive
- Date:** December 19, 2025
- Location:** Village Hall
- Attendees:** Tom Harrigan, Richard Paul Jr., Travis Brush
- RE:** PIM Comments Review; Project Directives

A meeting was held to review several project topics with the goal of establishing a clear path forward as the design team progresses toward the 60% plan stage.

Watertown Plank Sidewalk Plan

- KL submitted preliminary plans for the 13402 Watertown Plank sidewalk replacement via email on 12/17/25. The plans were briefly discussed where it was pointed out that the owner would lose two overall parking spots (one already being lost due to concrete barrier in place). It was also noted that the detectable warning fields (DWF) need to be 15ft from the nearest rail per design standards.
 - Feedback was that the property owner would not be happy with the loss of an additional stall. Travis said the sidewalk alignment shown made the most sense with how the sidewalk leads into DWF, but discussed an alternative that could be drawn up for review instead. KL will provide alternate design for review and coordination with the property owner and railroad.

Highland Drive Traffic Control

- A discussion was held regarding the preferred traffic control configuration for the Highland Drive pathway construction. The two current options under consideration are implementing one-way traffic or closing the road to through traffic.
 - Tom noted he did have a discussion with Chief Hennen who suggested he felt the one-way operation may be best. He also recommended splitting the project into two segments at Juneau to maintain as much access as possible.
 - Impacts to schedule and costs with this approach were discussed, as it would increase mobilization costs and decrease contractor efficiency.
 - KL expressed concerns from past project experience and wrong way drivers
 - It was left that this would need to be discussed further, perhaps a combination of one-way traffic from Juneau to Gebhardt while closing the segment south of Juneau could be considered.

Driveways

- Driveways were discussed at length based on some feedback and previous conversations about if driveways and aprons should be replaced throughout the project or matched into.
- All previous pathway projects to date have removed and replaced driveways and aprons with asphalt during pathway construction, with no consideration made on if existing driveway was concrete or asphalt based on Village ordinance that driveways shall be asphalt from the ROW Line to the road.
- On this project, there are a few properties with brand new concrete driveways that would require removal and replacement. KL had a list of concrete driveways throughout the project limits with slope and condition assessments.
 - Only two driveways (14800 Watertown Plank and 1145 Highland) had concrete driveways that are new within the last 1-2 years.
 - Current pathway alignment would not impact 1145 Highland, but would result in removal of roughly 12-15ft of existing concrete
 - 9 other properties have concrete driveways of varying conditions and slopes (almost all exceeding the maximum 2% slope required for the path x-slope).
- Several residents have expressed concerns about removing their driveways, some due to their newer condition, others for functional reasons such as turnarounds. After discussion, it was agreed that to ensure fairness and avoid special exemptions, any driveways within the right-of-way will be removed as necessary for pathway construction, except if there's a driveway that is in good condition and can meet the pathway slope requirements.

Tree Removal

- Similar to driveways, resident comments of concern for particular tree and vegetation removal was discussed.
- As previously communicated, tree and vegetation impacts will occur throughout the corridor. While the design team is making every effort to route the path around trees and has coordinated multiple reviews with Village staff, certain areas cannot remain unchanged without causing significant drainage issues or resulting in offsets from the roadway that would be too minimal to maintain.
- Maintaining the presence of some particularly mentioned trees and vegetation would result in significant cost impacts to the project requiring additional storm sewer, curb and gutter, or in one instance a taller structural retaining wall.
- Similar to the driveway discussion, it was agreed that the corridor will be reviewed by the design team and Village staff as planned. However, custom solutions requiring additional Village expense will not be implemented, given that tree and vegetation impacts occur throughout the entire project limits and affect all residents

Conclusion

- Immediately following the holidays, KL staff will coordinate with the Village to complete outreach to residents who left messages at the PIM requesting additional conversation.
- Immediate follow-up will be made with a resident at 1255 Highland who expressed interest in an easement on his property to save several large Norway Spruce.
- KL design team will continue revisions working towards 60% plan submittal in late January, with plans to then review the site with the Village forester.
- Private drainage discharges were also discussed. This winter, the Village will send letters to all residents on the west side of Highland within the project limits, notifying them of the requirement to relocate private drain discharges in accordance with the new Village ordinance and providing a timeline for compliance.