

PROVINCETOWN BANNER

Shank Painter traffic study OK'd in Provincetown

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An in-depth survey of Shank Painter Road traffic and pedestrian patterns, the first step in a possible reconfiguration of the roadway, was approved by selectmen recently.

The “corridor study” will be done by the Cape Cod Commission and will survey the road to develop a sidewalk and curb cut plan that would create pedestrian and bicycle walkways along both sides of the busy street. The \$7,500 cost of the survey will be paid out of a special Barnstable County reserve fund.

Selectmen had met in June with Commission traffic engineers to discuss how narrow right-of-ways and wide curb cuts granted to several businesses along Shank Painter Road were creating “conflict points” that could lead to accidents. They recommended significant safety and infrastructure improvements to the road, which is one of the three main roads leading into town from Route 6.

Glenn Cannon, Commission transportation engineer, told selectmen Monday the first step in the survey would be to discuss with officials what purpose they want the roadway to play.

“Determining the purpose of Shank Painter Road – main access to the commercial district or local street – will assist in determining the type of roadway width required for the roadway,” Cannon’s report to selectmen said.

Currently, sidewalks appear and disappear along both sides of the road, which is a main thoroughfare for pedestrians heading for the Stop & Shop grocery store, Laundromat and other businesses. The Commission’s recommendation is to create a sidewalk plan and change town bylaws governing sidewalk and curb cut placement. Consolidating some of the curb cuts along the road would be another option.

The cost to create a plan and do the construction would be north of \$1 million, Andy Koziol, Commission traffic analyst, told selectmen in June. Cannon said the Commission would work

with the town to identify possible grants to pay for any construction.

“Shank Painter is a mess. It’s going to be more of a mess once the affordable housing project comes on line,” board of selectmen chair Michele Couture said Monday, referring to the 50-unit development planned at 90 Shank Painter Road.

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