

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Draft Policy on Street Connectivity
submitted April 29, 2010 by the Council Ordinance Committee
as revised May 10, 2010 by the Council

This Policy is made as of this ____ day of _____, 2010 by the Town Council of the TOWN OF FALMOUTH, MAINE, a Maine municipal corporation located in Cumberland County, Maine (mailing address: 271 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105).

WHEREAS, the Town Council has the legislative authority to accept streets in the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has an obligation to consider the overall benefits and costs of street acceptance; and

WHEREAS, interconnected streets can reduce the costs of providing municipal services, such as waste collection, snowplowing, public transit and school related transit, by decreasing travel time and mileage; and

WHEREAS, interconnected streets shorten emergency access response times and allow emergency vehicles to use alternate routes if one route is blocked; and

WHEREAS, interconnected streets provide for multiple travel routes thereby diffusing and reducing traffic impacts and congestion on public roadways and intersections; and

WHEREAS, interconnected streets reduce traffic delays and vehicle miles traveled, thereby reducing vehicle emissions and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, a poorly-connected street network encourages use of the automobile over other travel modes, creates the need for excessive out-of-direction travel, divides neighborhoods; and limits accessibility to property; and

WHEREAS, interconnected streets provide a wider variety of travel choices to residents and foster livable, walkable, and bikeable neighborhoods;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is the policy of the Town Council to:

1. Ensure that both residential and commercial developments in the Town will be connected to each other to give a sense of connectivity and unity to the Town as it grows;
2. Encourage property owners and developers to provide for street connections wherever possible;
3. Alert the public that requests for public acceptance of streets ~~that do not will generally be viewed unfavorably unless the street proposed for acceptance~~ connects directly to an existing public street or publicly-dedicated street will most likely not be considered for acceptance;

4. Use this policy as a guide when considering requests for public street acceptance with the recognition that the acceptance of streets is a legislative act of the Council.