

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Draft Policy on Street Connectivity
for public hearing June 21, 2010 Town 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 connect 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.