

# PRESERVE OUR SIDEWALKS!

Please vote at our **Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** Town Meeting  
**7 p.m.** at Wahconah High School – *Please arrive early* as sidewalks are **Article 1 on the Town Warrant**

## *Why is cement concrete better for Dalton’s sidewalks?*

	PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE	PETROLEUM-BASED ASPHALT
<b>Percent of Dalton Sidewalks that are Currently Concrete</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Sidewalk Service life</b> <i>(FHWA Research)</i>	<b>50-80 years</b>	<b>25-40 years</b>
<b>MassDOT Standards</b> <i>(MassDOT 2018 Guidelines)</i>	Cement concrete is the <b>preferred MassDOT sidewalk material</b> .	Asphalt is an <b>optional MassDOT sidewalk material</b> , primarily for installs over utilities, late-season temporary sidewalks, and temporary repairs.
<b>Recyclable?</b>	<b>YES</b> Ground up into aggregate, recycled concrete is used in sidewalk and road base – or added to new concrete mix.	<b>YES</b> Less than 15% of ground up asphalt can be added to new mix, as long as <b>fresh petroleum-based binder</b> is included.
<b>Are There Greener Options?</b>	<b>YES</b> Low-carbon concrete is now used in MassDOT sidewalk projects, and this low-carbon material is <b>much greener</b> than recycled asphalt. The petition also allows for future innovations.	<b>NO</b> <b>All recycled asphalt requires a petroleum binder</b> made through carbon-intensive processes – even the “greenest” asphalt available, cold-in-place reclamation (CIR), requires this.
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooler in summer</li> <li>• Better support for ADA compliance (curb cuts, etc.).</li> <li>• Trip hazards are more visible in low light (cement is 4x brighter).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotter in summer</li> <li>• Snow/ice melts faster in winter once sidewalk is cleared.</li> <li>• Darker surface is less safe in low-light conditions.</li> </ul>
<b>Aesthetics</b>	Preserves <b>Dalton’s New England warmth and charm</b> .	Less attractive but functional.
<b>Impact on Home Values</b>	Increases curb appeal and walkability, which increases home values and <b>helps concrete sidewalks pay for themselves</b> .	Less attractive but functional.
<b>Installation Costs</b> <i>(MassDOT 2023 Projects)</i>	\$90 per linear yard, <b>but saves town 35% over time</b> .	\$45 per linear yard, <b>but costs town more over time</b> .
<b>Faster-and-Cheaper Fixes Available?</b>	<b>YES</b> Individual slab replacement, milling, and leveling options. <b>Requires less maintenance</b> over time than asphalt.	<b>YES</b> Patching, possibly milling and resurfacing. <b>Requires more maintenance</b> over time than cement.