



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2023

5:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Rama Balakrishna (Chair), Franny Osman Paula Walsh, .

Absent: Zhengyu Huang ;There is currently one open position on the committee

Select Board Representative: not present

Invited guests: Emy Azar- Council of Aging Liaison

1. Opening

Chair Rama Balakrishna opened the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes –

- a. There were no available minutes for review, any outstanding minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- b. The Town Clerk's office is missing some of the approved minutes from 2022. Paula Walsh will forward all 2022 minutes she completed to the office.

B. Regular Business:

- a. Austin Cyganiewicz, the Acton Director of Governmental Affairs updates:
 - i. Ridership: Ridership on the CAT and the Curb to Curb services had very strong numbers despite the fact the Rail Shuttle and one Curb to Curb van are still not running
 - ii. Taxi Program: There has been a regional grant from the state for the towns of Sudbury, Bolton, Acton and one other town. Acton's share is \$80,000. Taxi companies are being vetted, but currently the companies want 24 hour notice. Austin is hoping to find one that is more flexible. Discussion was held as to whether multiple companies could be contracted, at least one now that may require 24 hour notice while we continue the search for a company with more flexibility. Additionally, it was suggested that a Boston based company be contracted for return medical trips.
 - iii. Boston Medical Day Run: One additional idea that's being considered was to have a dedicated day of the week for anyone needing to go into Boston for medical care.
 - iv. CAT: The Select Board has allocated \$40,000 for the CAT service. However, they would like to create a survey to assess the current services as well as any recommendations and suggestions for improvements.



- v. MAPC: Travis Pollock of MAPC is seeking to coordinate a meeting to discuss the creation of a survey. The survey would be funded using ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. ARPA funding money must be spent by 2026,
 - b. Sidewalk Summary: Corey York, Director of Public Works for the Town of Acton, sent an update at the request of Rama Balakrishna.
 - i. River Street: No update
 - ii. Hayward and Main: A safety audit conducted per the request of town manager, John Mangiaratti, raised questions if drivers would drive down Musket in an effort to avoid the proposed lights at Hayward.
 - iii. Route 2 at Piper and Taylor Roads: Numerous studies have been conducted over the years. Any proposed changes at this location must be done in cooperation with the State.
 - iv. Great Road: Complete Study is underway. The section of Great Road from the Concord town line to Main Street has been completed but the Main Street to Littleton town line will still need further study.
 - C. Select Board Update:
 - a. No updates

3. New/Special Business:

- A. There was discussion around how TAC can best obtain reports and updates from town staff. Rama Balakrishna and Paula Walsh volunteered to meet with pertinent town staff (particularly engineering) approximately one week prior to TAC meetings.
- B. Rezoning petition: Franny Osman informed TAC that she submitted a rezoning petition to the Select Board. She did this as a private citizen not as a representative of any of the committees she serves on.
- C. MASSPRIG: A representative from MASSPIRG, a consumer action group, has expressed interest in conducting a public outreach event at NARA Park to coordinate with the official opening event of the Route 2 Bike Path Bridge.
- D. TAC meeting schedule: There was unanimous decision to have a consistent meeting date and time of the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm. Meetings are expected to run for roughly ninety minutes and the new schedule will begin on April 22, 2023. However, there will be an interim meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 5:30 pm.
- E. Senior Center Update: Emy Azar relayed that according to Sharon Mercurio, the Senior Center Director, that transportation for the Senior Center has been going well. Paula Walsh echoed this, as a recent rider on the COA van, she heard only positive comments about the service, in particular, riders adore the drivers.
- F. South Acton and Train Station: There is an input process underway which will continue for several years. MBTA towns must identify 50 acres for multi-unit, low income housing, 10 of which must be within ½ mile of the train station.



At 6:43 pm, a motion to close the meeting was made by Paula Walsh and seconded by Franny Osman. Roll call was done and the motion was approved unanimously,

Documents presented or discussed during the meeting:
[Sidewalk Committee - Quarterly Update Dec. 2022.pdf](#)

Acronyms:

ADA= Americans with Disability Act

ARPA= American [COVID-19] Recovery Program Act

Boston MPO= Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization, the part of MassDOT that disburses federal transportation funds

BAG= Bicycle Advisory Group (formed January 2021)

CMAQ= Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality

COD= Commission on Disabilities

COVID= Novel Coronavirus 2019 causing a worldwide pandemic in 2020

CTPS= Central Transportation Planning Staff, within the Boston MPO, within MassDOT

**Landline= a signage and wayfinding project to connect communities by bike and pedestrian, by MAPC and MassTrails of MassDOT.*

MAGIC= Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination, which is our 13-town subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council

MAPC= Metropolitan Area Planning Council

MassDOT=Massachusetts Department of Transportation

MBTA= Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

NRG=Nashoba Regional Greenways Coalition

SATSAC= South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee

TAC= Transportation Advisory Committee

TMA= Transportation Management Association