



## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes  
November 29, 2023  
5:30 p.m.  
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

**Present:** Rama Balakrishna (Chair), Zhengyu Huang, Franny Osman, Paula Walsh,

**Absent:** There is currently one open position on the committee

**Select Board Representative:** Jim Snyder-Grant

Invited guests: Niru Velankar - Council of Aging Liaison, QinRui Pang- Town Engineer, Emi Azar

### 1. Opening

Chair Rama Balakrishna opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

### 2. Regular Business

#### A. Select Board update:

- a. A review of the state of various goals will be conducted at the next Select Board meeting.
- b. QinRui (on behalf of Julie Pierce) mentioned that the taxi grant deadline of December 31 had been extended into the next fiscal year. 80 residents signed up for the taxi program but only 10 used it. Seniors and new immigrants might want to use it more, especially during the winter months.

### 3. New/Special Business:

#### A. Engineering update:

- a. Taylor Rd. sidewalk work is still in progress.
- b. Town is in discussions with MassDOT to further the Great Rd. process.
- c. It was discussed that the town should actively look for funding sources to move on the sidewalk list. Rama is in the process of consolidating the sidewalk list for update.
- d. QinRui requested member feedback on the town's draft traffic calming policy and complete streets project list. Franny asked about the difference between Complete Streets and Traffic Calming. QinRui explained that "complete streets" has traffic calming elements included. The committee will schedule a meeting for Dec 13 from 12:30-1:30 PM to review the documents.
- e. Franny inquired if South Acton Vision could include on-street parking on Main Street. QinRui responded that there is no space.

#### B. Select Board transportation goals:

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- a. The main goals include the Great Rd. safety improvement/complete streets project, exploring the expansion of public transit, adopting a traffic calming policy, and seeking funding for sidewalks.
  - b. Franny Osman will initiate a dialogue with Maynard and Concord to collaborate on inter-town transportation services.
  - c. Options for the transit innovation grant (due January 19, 2024) include improvements to the rail shuttle, extension of services to West Acton, expanded service windows to accommodate first/last trains, improving walk access to the train platform, and adding a route to the CAT bus.
  - d. Paula Walsh inquired about funding from the town to support migrant families. Jim indicated that state funding is in place to cover extensions to the shuttle service. Paula will write to the town manager for confirmation.
- C. Franny Osman mentioned a grant application for a smaller, electric accessible van with the chance to procure 80% to 100% of the cost.
- D. Franny Osman will follow up with Travis Pollack (MAPC) about next steps (goals, metrics, targets) with the Transportation Action Plan.
- a. It was noted that the Acton 2020 plan already has some transportation goals, and that a comprehensive community plan is scheduled for 2025.
  - b. Jim suggested that it would be good to have a transportation plan to leverage for future funding opportunities.

At 7:04 pm, a motion to close the meeting was made and seconded. Roll call was done, and the motion was approved unanimously.

*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*