



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2024

5:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Rama Balakrishna (Chair), Zhengyu Huang, Paula Walsh, Andreas Kinzmaier, Chris Brandon

Absent: There are no longer any open positions on the committee

Select Board Representative: Jim Snyder-Grant, not present

Invited guests: QinRui Pang-Engineer, Town of Acton.

1. Opening

Chair Rama Balakrishna opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The March 27, 2024, and April 24, 2024, minutes were reviewed and motion to accept was given by Rama Balakrishna and seconded by Chris Brandon. Minutes were accepted with edits by unanimous Roll Call.
- B. Council on Aging Update: None available
- C. Select Board Update: None available

3. New/Special Business:

A. Member Concerns: None

B. Sidewalks:

- a) Prospect Street: Engineering asked for TAC's input on two potential street designs for Prospect Street. Plan 1, created a wider 8-foot-sidewalk which would be used by pedestrians and cyclists, keeping dedicated travel lanes for vehicles. Plan 2 would remove the center line and create a single travel lane which would be shared by vehicles traveling in both directions along with bicycle lanes on either side of the roadway and keep the current 5-foot sidewalks. The goal in both plans would be traffic calming TAC took a poll and Plan 1 was unanimously preferred.
- b) High Street: Rama reiterated the challenging/dangerous route a visually impaired resident is taking when walking from his home on Faulkner Hill Road to the train Station along High Street including a 40–50-foot stretch where there is a five-foot drop with no barriers or tactile strips to warn pedestrians. Other challenges include a wide driveway at the Erickson's location where there is again no tactile signs indicating where the sidewalk



ends and the roadway occurs with the resident reporting at least one instance when he mistakenly ended up in the roadway. Although there is a light and crosswalk at the High Street and Main Street intersection, the light does not have vocal cues for when it is safe to cross. Therefore, the resident must walk to School Street where there is a light with vocal cues but there is a problem regarding the location of the tactile strip located in between the light and the crosswalk rather than at the crosswalk itself. QinRui shared that at least one aspect of the High Street where at least three crosswalks are planned. She cautioned that these may not be the only features necessary and studies are needed to show how best to address issues, reminding people that paint alone may not be sufficient to solving problems.

c) Sidewalks:

- a. Stow Street: Samantha N. a Stow Street resident emailed TAC with concerns about the heavy foot and vehicle traffic on Stow Street and the necessity of a sidewalk.
 - i. QinRui will search for any past correspondence regarding Stow Street sidewalk that disappeared from the sidewalk prioritization list.
 - ii. Evaluation process will be implemented to update the sidewalk list.
 - iii. Another Stow Street resident sent an email to Engineering advocating for a double yellow line on Stow Street where as other residents were opposed. QinRui was able to respond to the residents and explain that the town could not start painting lines without a study first. Many residents were pleased to learn there is a process.
- b. Central to Summer: Sidewalk work will begin this Fall.

C. Crosswalks:

- i. Hayward and Main: An update was provided by Town Manager, John Mangiaratti via email. The town is looking at a Complete Streets design, with a buffer for a bike lane. Modifications are required and approval is being sought from abutters. A goal is for traffic to be able to turn both left and right.
- ii. Taylor Road: There was no approval from the abutter at Taylor and Minot so road design was slightly changed, in addition, the wall will be rebuilt on the opposite side of the road.
- iii. Infant/Toddler crosswalk: No changes to the current crosswalk at the top of the hill have been approved. The best suggestion is to repaint the current crosswalk to make it more visible.



At 7:32 pm, A motion to close the meeting was made by Paula Walsh and seconded by Mr. Huang. Roll call was done, and the motion was unanimously approved.

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 way-finding project to connect communities by bike and pedestrian, by MAPC and MassTrails of MassDOT.*

MAGIC= Minuteman Advisory Group on Inter-local 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