



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2024
5:30 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Rama Balakrishna (Chair), Zhengyu Huang (joined meeting at 6:15 pm), Paula Walsh, Andreas Kinzlmaier, Chris Brandon

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

Select Board Representative: Jim Snyder-Grant

Invited guests: QinRui Pang-Engineer, Town of Acton. Nirupama Velankar-Council on Aging representative. Franny Osman-Editor, Acton Exchange

1. Opening

Chair Rama Balakrishna opened the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes –

- a. The May 22, 2024 minutes were reviewed and motion to accept was made by Andy Kinzlmaier and seconded by Chris Brandon. Minutes were accepted with edits by unanimous Roll Call.
- b. The June 26, 2024 minutes were reviewed and motion to accept was made by Paula Walsh and seconded by Chris Brandon. Minutes were accepted with edits by unanimous Roll Call.

B. Council on Aging Update: Nirupama Velankar shared concerns from seniors using the van on how long it takes to travel through the Mass Ave/Main Street area and if there is any timeline on when the work will be completed. QinRui was able to respond to the concerns by explaining that this is all part of the Kelly's Corner project which has a 2025 expected completion time. Andy Kinzlmaier asked if signage could be posted with that expected completion time as other riders also question why it seems to be taking so long for the construction.

C. Select Board Update:

- a. Jim Snyder-Grant shared that he has been working on the Transportation page on the town's website. The single page has been active, however, the search needs to be updated. Right now, a transportation search will bring up many items but the actual desired page is way down on the list making it difficult for riders to use.
- b. Taxi program using ARPA funding is quickly being used up. Requests for out of town trips beyond 20 miles are being limited with the exception of medical trips. There is a pending decision regarding family member visits.
- c. LRTA- the electric van sent back due to lift malfunction.



- d. Dispatch and Van Management Services: Contract ran out. Littleton has agreed to pay more to help out.
- e. Dispatch Software: Different software has features not currently available which may allow transportation dispatch to be brought back in house either by management of the vans or just for scheduling purposes.
- f. Service denials: Paula Walsh asked if the current dispatch service is tracking how many people are being denied services. Rama will ask the town manager if such records are current being kept.

3. New/Special Business:

A. Citizen/Member Concerns:

- i. High Street: Franny Osman asked whether there had been any progress on High Street and the concerns of the visually impaired Faulkner Hill resident. Rama relayed a response from the town manager, John Mangiaratti; the grain company driveway will be part of the Main Street upgrade. A request has been submitted to Engineering for a verbal prompt at the intersection of Main Street and High Street. The sheer drop concern- John learned that work permits were approved years ago for the developer to address the safety concerns of the 5 foot sheer drop but were never completed.
- ii. Faulkner Hill Road and High Street intersection: according to QinRui, a study was completed and a viable design created. Funding sources are being sought for three spots along High Street; at Faulkner Hill Road, Conant Street and at Old High Street. Engineering may pilot a painted island.

B. Sidewalks:

- i. Taylor Road- Taylor and Minot, prepping is done for that corner and goal is to complete the project this Fall. Sidewalk will be in front of trees plus will extend travel lane on the opposite side.
- ii. Willow Street- Opening RFP bids on October 2nd; hopefully, this simple project will be completed this Fall.
- iii. Prospect Street-Rama will send an email to the Select Board in unanimous TAC support of the option 1 plan for the school use pathway
- iv. Hayward and Main- Design plan is 100% completed. Funding sources are being investigated including the DOT which requires all plans be compliant with the Complete Streets protocols. Abutters have been contacted and responses are trickling in. Engineering has been meeting with the abutters to answer any questions they may have. The eventual plan for the intersection will be a traffic signal.
- v. Infant/Toddler: QinRui will inquire if decision is made.



- vi. Spruce Street- Town and concerned resident plan to meet. Quick decision may be to put speed humps in and meet again to discuss other options.
- vii. Carlisle Road- School Bus safety, anecdotal reports of overcrowded bus.

C. MAPC Assistance: Travis Pollack, a senior planner with MAPC, had previously offered to attend a TAC meeting. Rama will reach out to him and hopefully get him to attend. He may be able to help find funding for various transportation gaps.

At 7:15 pm, A motion to close the meeting was made by Chris Brandon and seconded by Zhengyu 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