

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2020
7:30 pm

Virtual meeting at Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87160485050?pwd=QTdKVGNIU0xqaklsdmlkUXRKG42Zz09>

Present:

Full Members: Franny Osman (chair), Julia Day, Jim Citro

Liaison from Council on Aging Board: Nirupama Velankar

Others: Visiting Residents; Director of Governmental Affairs Austin Cyganiewicz

1. Opening

Chair Osman opened the meeting at 7:32 pm.

2. Regular Business

- A. Shared Concerns (timely issues not on the agenda, formerly “Citizens Concerns”)
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes – none reviewed
- C. Announcements – none
- D. Selectmen Liaison Report – none
- E. Report from Austin Cyganiewicz, Director of Governmental Affairs – Mr. Cyganiewicz gave the following updates:
 - Dial-a-Ride service is still operating, Minuteman shuttle is still operating
 - CAT – he is presenting a plan to reopen the CAT in the next 30 days. A visitor (Kim Robson) indicated that the CAT is showing operational on the website. Austin will follow up and ensure that the various transit programs are displayed properly.
 - Ms. Robson also asked if dispatch could stay open later. It currently closes at 4:00PM, but the bus operates until 6:00PM.
 - Other requests indicate that the bus should go to where the people are: Windsor Green, West Acton, Staples, etc.
 - Mr. Cyganiewicz described the current cleaning schedule and sanitizing of the buses.
 - The taxi program is still being looked at. Before Covid, the town reached out to a few taxi companies. The town did not get the MAPC taxi grant. There is money in the FY 2021 budget for this service and this will be looked at again.

Kim Robson asked, would minors be allowed to use this program. This is currently being looked at.

- Mr. Cyganiewicz talked about the renewal of the CrossTown Connect Intermunicipal Agreement. Some towns feel like they do not share in the service enough to continue. Some PR work is needed on this.
- Mr. Cyganiewicz also indicated that there is a town meeting regarding improvements to the town center design on October 7 at 7:00PM.

F. Membership and Administrative Issues – Ms. Osman indicated that she is looking for more members on this committee and is suggesting that Julia Day become a full member.

3. New Business

A. Central Street bicycle striping:

Visitor Tom Campbell is a frequent rider and indicates that this new striping has several narrow areas around curves, etc. and he is really fearful of a potential accident. There have been numerous emails sent by bicycle riders, some complimenting the Town on the restriping, the majority expressing safety concerns about the new traffic flow.

The TAC considered several options:

- Narrow the road
- Widen the road
- Use sidewalk as bike path and sidewalk
- Move the yellow stripes back to the middle
- Extra signage/bike images
- Slowing traffic options/humps.

The TAC highly recommends that the engineering group travel this road to see the dangerous sections. Franny Osman said she would send something to Corey York to see what could be done.

B. Advisory groups: Ms. Osman suggests we create wider advisory groups on three issues: transit, pedestrian, and bicycling. The advisory groups could be called to meet together to address issues that come up that the few members of TAC cannot opine on with sufficient expertise.

C. Ms. Osman reported on a complaint about the crossing light at Hayward and Jefferson. She had met a blind high school student and his teacher at that intersection. They reported that the lights are not bright enough and cars often miss them and don't stop. The beeps are constant and thus not useful for indicating to the blind user when it is safe to cross. Ms. Osman will inquire with Department of Public Works regarding this location.

D. David Spector asked about the timing of sidewalks for Taylor Road. Mr. Spector indicated that this street has been on the list for quite some time, and since it contains access to one of the elementary schools, he was wondering about when, or if, this is still expected to happen. Austin Cyganiewicz indicated that he would check with Engineering on the latest timeline.

2. Adjournment

At 9:09 pm. it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.
The motion was approved unanimously.

Note-taker: Jim Citro.