



## Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

### Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2021

7:30 pm

Town Hall Room 121

And Via Zoom

**Present:** Franny Osman (Chair), Luke Evans, and Paula Walsh

**Selectmen Present:** Board of Selectman Chair David Martin and Jim Snyder Grant, new Select Board TAC Liaison

**Absent:** Julia Day

Also present: Nirupama Valankar, Council on Aging Liaison and Kim Robson, invited

### 1. Opening

Chair Franny Osman opened the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

### 2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from the TAC June 2021 will be delayed until the next meeting.
- B. Board of Selectmen Elect Jim Snyder-Grant:
  1. There is an Acton Climate Coalition Mobility and Transportation Workshop scheduled for August 5, 2021 at 7 pm.
  2. There will be a Goal Planning Meeting to identify short and long term goals for the town. David Martin explained that there will be prioritization and weighted voting with a line drawn by the town manager when he feels capacity has been reached.
- C. Citizens Concerns:
  1. No new concerns

### 3. New/Special Business

- A. Franny Osman provided the following update:
  1. Jim Citro has resigned from TAC after 15 years on the committee. TAC is now seeking a new member.
  2. There has been an increase in complaints about CrossTown Connect dispatch such as dispatchers changing scheduled rider appointments and dispatchers being abrupt and uncooperative with callers. Ms. Osman suggests that there is a need to review the whole system and how the vans are being utilized, specifically given that the train lots are not full. Citizen Kim Robson shared



an anecdotal account of her son's experience with being bumped from a scheduled van trip.

3. There was no information on the website indicating when the CrossActon Transit (CAT) and train shuttles would be restarting.
4. Making the Connections Update: Nelson/Nygaard are conducting surveys.
5. It would be helpful to begin getting usage reports again.
6. Ms. Osman had a recent conversation with Austin Cyganiewicz about he and Karen Dumaine, the Director of Cross Town Connect Transportation Management Association to begin attending some TAC meetings to update the committee. Mr. Cyganiewicz questioned whether Ms. Dumaine's attendance would be necessary given her part-time status. Questions could be referred to his office instead.
7. The voucher program is still being developed. As an example of the experience of another local community, Sudbury has been paying an average of \$10/trip.
8. Mr. Martin questioned whether TAC recommends keeping the old systems and routes. Multiple members and a citizen asked that changes be made to expand the established CAT routes. Ms. Osman recommended review of the previously suggested expansion by Mr. Cyganiewicz for potential use when the established routes resume.

**B. Sidewalks:**

1. Taylor Road: Planning board rescheduled due to logistics in coordinating a scenic route tour. Mr. Snyder-Grant suggested there may be some overlap between bike lands and pedestrian users.
2. High Street: There is a stairway that borders the sidewalk and may present a hazard although Mr. Martin wasn't sure there had been any reports of injury but Ms. Osman suggested perhaps the town could reach out to the condominium association to ask if they would put another layer of stones to help distinguish the stairway from the sidewalk.
3. Priority List: The priority list was created more than a decade ago and is due for review. Mr. Martin cautioned TAC that the priority list was created using specific criteria. Ms. Day, a TAC member unable to attend tonight's meeting has a background in municipal planning such as this and may be best suited to review and advise the committee on this matter.

**C. Bikes**

1. Adaptive Bikes: No updates available on adaptive bike coalition or why the program has not started yet.
2. Nashoba Greenway: Mr. Snyder-Grant met with 5 other interested citizens at the W.R. Grace site to discuss pros and cons of how best to get from one place to another on the site. No definitive decisions, only discussions and trial route rides.
3. Signage: The DOT reports they have not yet finalized verbiage at the Federal level.

**D. Train Station:** No updates.

**E. 19-21 Maple Street:** No changes. There is not felt to be any significant urgency to the design changes as the lots have seen decreased usage.



- F. Counsel on Aging: The State of Massachusetts has announced a Walking Challenge for Seniors. The walks can be inside or outside. There is a required form to be submitted and for each form submitted, the COA gets an entry to win \$1000. There will be prizes for individual walkers as well.
- G. Making the Connections:
  - 1. The Intermunicipal Agreement has not been signed by the Town of Acton yet. Mr. Snyder-Grant will work on getting that signed as soon as possible.
  - 2. Austin Cyganiewicz is working on getting agreements with vendors for the voucher program.
- H. Hazards Reporting Systems: Ms. Osman has seen an online Hazards Reporting System in another community and wondered if such a system would be useful in Acton. It was decided that Ms. Osman and Ms. Walsh would query local communities to find out whether they are using such a system and report back to TAC at the next meeting.
- I. Meeting schedules: TAC would like to maintain as regular a schedule as possible for its meetings, so, we will verify that the town website states the TAC meetings are usually conducted on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. However, due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict, the August 2021 meeting will need to be held a week earlier than usual, on August 18, 2021.

#### **4. Adjournment**

At 8:54 p.m., it was moved by Luke Evans and seconded by Paula Walsh to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

##### *Acronyms:*

*ADA= Americans with Disability 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*

*NRG=Nashoba Regional Greenways Coalition*

*SATSAC= South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee*

*TAC= Transportation Advisory Committee*

