

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2022

12:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Franny Osman (Chair), Julia Day, Paula Walsh

Absent: None

Select Board Representative: Jim Snyder-Grant

Invited guests: Austin Cyganiwicz (Director of Governmental Affairs), Nirupana Velankar (COA Liaison) Rama Balakishna and Melissa Wingfield

1. Opening

Chair Franny Osman opened the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes from January 26, 2022 meeting are tabled.
- B. Select Board Update: None
- C. Council of Aging Update by Nirupana Velankar: There are 23 new members at that Senior Center. There has been expansion of the gym hours including Tuesday evenings. She also was able to provide an overview of the upcoming programs, both virtual and in person offerings.
- D. Announcements: .
- E. Austin Cyganiwicz updates:
 - a. The RFP (Request For Proposal) for a new van vendor is still being written but should be available by the next meeting. The RFP will include dispatching and regional management may be edited as one member town is considering leaving the collaborative and going solo.
 - b. There was a strong desire to bring back the CAT service which was delayed due to a staffing issue. A driver has been found and the CAT service restarted. The route has been expanded, for example it now includes Trader Joe's plaza in East Acton, but modifications to the route may still be coming. The technology app is not currently available as the van with that feature has been in the shop.
 - c. LRTA (Lowell Regional Transit Authority): There have been discussions with Dave Bradley at the LRTA to expand services to Acton. They will review and get back to us.
 - d. In response to a question/suggestion about the RFP language: The comment was whether having language in the RFP built in so changes can be edited as needed. Austin's response was that the problem with any changes greater than 25% would

require a rebid. The current contract already allows for some changes with 30 days notice.

- e. Taxi program: The remaining \$15,000 can only be released to us once 80% of the original \$15,000 which was recently made. The extension past March 31st is not yet decided by the State.
 - f. Cleanliness of the vans: A concern was raised as to the cleanliness of the buses which do not seem to be as well maintained as they had been in the past. According to Austin, the van drivers are required to follow special state mandated specialized cleaners and cleaning protocols/regulations (MS4) particularly for the washing of the outside of the vans.
 - g. Hailing system: A question was asked about the ability to hail the buses from stops other than the current scheduled stops. According to Austin, this feature is still being evaluated.
 - h. MAGIC (Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination) Funding for infrastructure bill will be substantial funding for transportation. A 5 year transportation/infrastructure plan (roadways, low-emission vehicles, van/bus services). TIP-federal funds disbursement process (transportation improvement plan) will be 220 million over 5 years. The bipartisan infrastructure bill also has available monies for transportation.
- F. Sidewalks: The town is considering making River St a one way, a study is pending.
- G. Adaptive bikes: No updates

3. New/Special Business

- A. Franny met with Julie Pierce Onos, the new Economic Development Director for the town of Acton. There will be public input sessions scheduled for March 1st and 2nd. The Town of Acton was honored with the Leading by Example Award for Climate Action Efforts by the Baker-Polito Administration.
- B. Franny also met with Kelly from the Emerson Hospital who is working on which taxi services will come in the middle of the night. They are looking for ways to improve transportation and how Emerson can support those services.
- C. New Meeting time/days: There was discussion around whether the time/day for the TAC meetings should be altered to accommodate the needs of interested community and committee members. The fourth Friday of the month from 12-1 pm was suggested and Austin will check on the change and see what steps need to be taken to make this change.
- D. Franny announced the anticipated Select Board approval of Rama Balakishna to TAC. Welcome Rama.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Franny and seconded by Paula and approved by a vote of 3-0, The meeting closed at 1:30 p.m.