

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2022
12:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Franny Osman (Chair), Ramachandran Balakrishna, Paula Walsh.

Absent: There are currently two open positions on the committee

Select Board Representative: Jim Snyder-Grant

Invited guests: Zhengyu Huang- Potential new member of TAC; Melissa Wingfield- van user; David Spector and Rip Martin- Taylor Road area residents

1. Opening

Chair Franny Osman opened the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes –There are no minutes for the scheduled June 2022 meeting as a quorum was not met and meeting could not be held. Approval of the July 2022 minutes was tabled.
- B. Announcements:
 - a. Great Road Complete Streets Session is scheduled for September 15,2022
 - b. Kelley's Corner Block Party is scheduled for September 10, 2022
 - c. South Acton Meeting scheduled for September 7. 2022 which Franny will attend.
 - d. There will be a public-facing informational presentation during the TAC meeting scheduled on September 23, 2022.
 - e. The subsequent meeting of TAC will be held on October 28, 2022, at 12 Noon via Zoom.
- C. Select Board Update:
 - a. Austin Cyganiewicz has been invited to the next Select Board meeting on September 12th to update the Board on the TMA which has not been meeting with any regularity. The Board hopes that Austin will be able to make some recommendations and assist in organizing the TMA.
 - b. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding: the town has received \$7 million of which \$5 million has been tentatively assigned. The plan now is to look at the other projects/entities that weren't funded as well as review of those tentative assignments to make final assignments. The Act encompasses a broad category of things that were impacted by Covid; however, town must avoid using the money for hiring of staff although consulting can be funded. Best for start up for programs rather than long term/ongoing funding of programs.
 - c. Complete Street Great Road project will increase pedestrian and bike safety, will include addition of blinking lights.

D. Sidewalks:

- a. Taylor Road: Citizens voiced concern that the project appears to be dormant despite verbal assurances given to residents by the Engineering Department that the construction will be completed before Winter. Discussions around how sections of the project seem to be discordant and may be curtailing completion of the project with additional concerns that the Kelley's Corner project could cause traffic to increase in the Taylor Road area.
- b. A letter will be sent to the Select Board by a member of TAC sharing these citizen concerns and asking for an update on the status of the Taylor Road Sidewalk.

E. Nascent Uber Program: No updates as the contact person hasn't responded to Austin's calls.

F. Making the Connections:

- a. The town has \$5,000 in funds that must be spent by December 31, 2022, and could be used for the taxi program.
- b. TAC has questions about the Making the Connections status which can be best answered by Karen Dumaine, Manager at Cross Town Connect and Austin Cyganiewicz, both of whom will be invited to the next TAC meeting in October.

3. New/Special Business:

A. Cross Acton Transit (CAT bus):

- a. Franny and Jim purposely rode the CAT and spoke with the driver and passengers about their experiences. They reported to TAC some of their observations as well as some comments from riders and the drivers.
- b. There were occasions when the CAT left early from a scheduled stop.
- c. There were comments that additional stops were desired, such as the back of the Avalon complex, Iris Court, Windsor Green, Stop & Shop, CVS on Great Road, Dollar Tree, School Campus, NARA Park and to always stop at Donelans and Trader Joes (currently only stopping a few times during the day with large gaps in times). It was brought up that it is actually illegal for non-school bus traffic to drive up to the school doors during school release times. A designated stop at the edge of the School Campus along with late afternoon stops by the CAT would be useful for this particular area.
- d. Discussion around better organizing Flagging Down/Hailing the bus to stop. Jim suggested installing Bus Stop Signs at locations deemed safe where riders can flag down the CAT bus, locations that are not currently on the regular stop schedule.
- e. There is not a lot of slack in the current schedule; the possibility of a 2nd CAT bus for the route(s) was made.
- f. It is difficult to get to the CAT bus from many parts of town, two people described similar situations where they would have to take a van to a location on the CAT route in order to use it with its current schedule.

- g. TAC would like to obtain a ridership report for the CAT which could be obtained from Austin at the October meeting.
- h. A letter from TAC to the Select Board asking that monies be used for increasing the CAT services was suggested. Paula Walsh motioned to increase the services using ARPA money which was seconded by Franny Osman and unanimously approved by TAC. Franny will write the letter.
- i. Zhengyu Huang offered to draft a survey specific to CAT use on why residents are not yet using the CAT to help identify other bottlenecks.

B. Micro transit: There was discussion around the use of micro transit for areas where the CAT bus was not available.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Franny Osman and seconded by Paula Walsh and approved unanimously, The meeting ended at 1:49 p.m.

Attachments: None

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 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

TMA= Transportation Management Association