



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

August 30, 2023

7:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Rama Balakrishna (Chair), Zhengyu Huang, Franny Osman Paula Walsh,

Absent: There is currently one open position on the committee

Select Board Representative: Jim Snyder-Grant (left the meeting at 8:50 pm)

Invited guests: Nirupama Valankar - Council of Aging Liaisons; QinRui Pang-Town of Acton Engineer

1. Opening

Chair Rama Balakrishna opened the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes –

- a. June 2023 minutes reviewed and approved with edits.

B. Shared Concerns:

a. Transportation for NARA Park Events:

- i. Make Van service available for access to NARA Park for daily visits as well as special events.
- ii. Franny will be the contact person for the upcoming Disability Event schedule for September 10th. People will be able to call the current Transportation Dispatch until 3 pm Friday to schedule transportation. After 3 pm, Franny will be the contact person and her phone number will be published for last minute calls requiring transportation.

b. Condition of the Vans:

- i. Ms. Valankar reported that there had been concerns by Senior Center riders as to the poor condition of the vans,
- ii. Mr. Snyder-Grant updated the committee that Julie who normally would handle the transportation issues was still on medical leave with John Mangiaratti, Town Manager who is covering the position during her absence. He reported that John was considering whether a dedicated Transportation Replacement was required.
- iii. Paula will draft a general email to the Town Manager John Mangiaratti asking him to look into the situation.

3. New/Special Business:

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- A. Engineering update: QinRui Pang from the Town Engineering Department updated the Committee on the status of various projects:
- i. The Complete Street Prioritization plan: volumes and other factors. A copy of the updated list will be sent to TAC. QinRui will submit an initial Bus Stop inclusion plan to TAC in two weeks and would like for TAC to review and give input on where to place stops. Some of these stops may be a dream or a long term (5 year) goal.
 - ii. Tayler Street Sidewalk: The department is short staffed so building the stone wall is a slow process as new employees are being trained. The project won't be finished before Winter, however, if they have a four person team available, they will be on site working on the wall.
 - iii. Willow Street Sidewalk: Approval has been obtained to move the stone wall and now needs design for a retaining wall. This design may require contracting a Structural Architect. Also, there are still some legal issues around easements that must be settled.
- B. Friends Group: Jim suggested that raising money for sidewalks may require the establishment of a Friends Group. Town Committees and departments are legally blocked from fundraising.
- C. Rama reported that he responded to a citizen email concerned with overgrowth along the Main Street sidewalk. Rama confirmed he had a similar experience walking between his home in Acton Center to the gas station at Main Street and Great Road where his car was being serviced. QinRui suggested he send an email to Trees and Grounds Department, Treewarden@actonma.gov
- D. Brook Street: Jim asked if there is a way to make a section one way resulting in a safer roadway for Bicycles. QinRui explained that an Engineering Study would be needed to determine if a one way was feasible. Such a survey was conducted in the past but has not been a priority for the department. Do we want to push resources at this point away from other projects? Rama asked if volume collection data was gathered and if that data included bicycles. Paula asked if having a traffic light at either end of the bridge allowing alternating traffic flow might be a feasible solution. The bridge would not have to be replaced, only altered to include a sidewalk and bike lane in addition to the traffic lights. Potentially this may not require further property easements. It was agreed that the road requires the establishment of traffic calming policy and that speed bumps are not a solution. Franny will contact Travis Pollack for additional ideas.
- E. Taxi Program: Jim will pen a separate letter to John Mangiaretti asking for a status update.
- F. Bicycle Update: Adaptive bikes are still available. Franny will write a blurb for the Action.
- G. Bike Share: There are two stations in Acton and one in Concord.
- H. TIP Amendment 11: Rama will need to relocate an email from a concerned citizen the Stow Street project, asking for letters of support.



- I. Route 111: Franny raised concerns about the roadway as it enters Boxborough, is not safe to walk. QinRui suggested an email to the State may be most effective, although MassDOT can be challenging to work with at time.

At 9:09 pm, A motion to close the meeting was made by Paula Walsh and seconded by Franny Osman. Roll call was done and the motion was approved unanimously,

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

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