



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2023

5:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Rama Balakrishna (Chair), Zhengyu Huang, Franny Osman, Paula Walsh (joined 6pm),

Absent: There is currently one open position on the committee

Select Board Representative: Jim Snyder-Grant

Invited Guests: Engineer: Qinrui Pang, Council on Aging Liaisons: Niru Velankar and Emi Azur

1. Opening

Chair Rama Balakrishna opened the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Paula motioned, Franny seconded. Roll call was taken and there was unanimous approval of the July 2023 and August 2023 meeting minutes. Suggested that we change list of documents used during the meeting (ones QinRui had shared) from links to document titles.
- B. Citizen Concerns:
 - a. Public Concern: We discussed a letter from a resident requesting a crosswalk at Prospect, across Central St. Engineer Qin's response: We looked at that area before the pandemic. There was one property owner in the immediate area who was against a crosswalk. When we looked at the idea of a crosswalk, we looked at filling in sidewalk gaps on Central. We measured sight distances; that area is tricky w/sight distances, so we have to be extra careful.
 - b. At the meeting about the new residents being housed at Minuteman Inn, the Town Manager mentioned grant money for transportation. What grant is that and can we improve transportation for all, not just that location?

3. New/Special Business:

- A. Engineering update: QinRui Pang from the Town Engineering Department updated the Committee on the status of various projects:
 - a. Engineering re-started a study of Main St. between Central and High Street, QinRui will share the scope for TAC to comment on.
- b. QinRui, Town Engineer, updated TAC on Great Road work,



- c. Rama suggests we remove “tiers” from sidewalk list because they don’t reflect the ranking as much as possible, based on how long the location was on the list. He will take care of that before our next meeting.
- d. She sent TAC the draft version of the traffic calming plan. TAC will compile a list of comments on traffic calming policy and send back to Qin.
- e. The stone wall along Taylor Rd. is being removed and rebuilt. Rama summarized the long process to build a stone wall. One more house has a lingering stone wall. B. QinRui explained details of winter, wetland, fill. Once the sidewalk is done, there is a plan to pave Taylor Rd.
- C. Design for Stow St. bridge is underway. Linked to 19-21 Maple St. Preliminary design is a shared use path.
- D. Engineers met with MBTA; MBTA staff want a separate entrance rather than ramp right to the train station building where the removable panel is. They want Acton to look at tying into the existing ramp on the other side of building.
- E. TAC gives a shoutout to Jim Snyder-Grant for bringing the Nashoba Regional Greenway process to the Select Board. The Town Manager will work with Maynard on a grant that will help with designing and creating signage to mark connections between trails and parts of towns, indicating what roads can be safe bikeways. Rama notes that we don’t have to take all the suggestions in Acton. One wiggly path for bicyclists will avoid Main St. For example, one could wiggle through WR Grace to connect South Acton with West Concord, but a potential developer of housing there has taken a step back because the Environmental Protection Agency needs more time to analyze building on this superfund site. There was a large apartment complex proposed north of the tracks, part of the WR Grace Superfund site. WR Grace is slowly trying to divest themselves of the property. They arranged with a developer to build apartments similar to Parker St. apartments, some permanently rent controlled, some naturally affordable.
- F. Discussion of how we can carry out improvements to CrossTown Connect. What is happening with the taxi program?
- G. On Nov. 6, there will be a Select Board meeting update from John on all Select Board goals. After that or at that time we will know how the work on the transportation short term goal is going.
- H. What’s up with transportation staffing now that Austin has left? Jim says T Transportation Coordinator is temporarily Economic Development Julie Pierce, covered by John. Acknowledges hard to get much done on it. It is a recognized gap. I. Also on November 6th, the Town Manager will present information about r rearrangement of staff positions. Jim isn’t sure if this will include transportation.
- J. Franny suggests we look at TIP funding for design to work on some South Acton improvements: a path under the bridge under Main St. near the train station; a path from Martin St. to the train platform; and a more central ramp from the station (where the removable panel is).
- K. Zhengyu mentioned a small section of Adams St., connecting Parker and High Street, 0.4 miles, which has heavy traffic as it is a connection between Maynard and Acton



L. Franny wants to look at the traffic calming plan and look at using low tech traffic calming devices such as narrowing streets or adding bumps or islands when sidewalks are too far in the future, in dangerous places such as Stow St. beyond Martin, and Parker St. between High St. and Independence.

At 7:01 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