



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2025

5:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Rama Balakrishna (Chair), Zhengyu Huang, Andreas KinzImaier, Paula Walsh, Chris Brandon

Absent: None

Select Board Representative: Jim Snyder-Grant

Invited and identified guests: QinRui Pang-Engineer, Town of Acton; Kate Chung-2007-17 Sidewalk Committee (John Mangiaratti-Town Manager; David Martin-Select Board; Franny Osman-Acton Exchange; Bob Sekuler-GreenActon Advocate; Nicole Rogers-GPI; Carolyn Radisch, Elizabeth Hora

1. Opening

Chair Rama Balakrishna opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The October 23, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed. Chris Brandon moved to accept the minutes and Paula Walsh seconded. Roll call was taken and minutes were unanimously approved with edits.
- B. Council on Aging
 - a. Senior Read Program Continues with 12-14 seniors participating until the end of school year. COA is seeking feedback on the program from parents.
 - b. Tax assistance is available to seniors through the Senior Center.
 - c. Taxi Program for Seniors is under consideration.

3. New/Special Business:

- A. Citizen/Member Concerns:
 - a. LRTA Acton representative: Franny has been seeking a new area representative for the LRTA meetings. Paula Walsh has expressed interest and will attend upcoming meetings and report back to TAC and the town. Franny will send Paula meeting details.
 - b. Sidewalk concern: Resident asked about the plans for a sidewalk along Great Road from Main Street to Woodvale. QinRui explained Acton doesn't own Great Road and Mass DOT has not yet approved the submitted sidewalk design.
- B. Select Board update:



- a. Budget discussions continue. Some challenges as Health Insurance rates increased more than expected so other items will need to be adjusted.
- b. Rama and Jim met, and Jim now has a better idea what is needed from the Town Manager regarding the High Street/Stow Street issues.
- c. New van: functional and ready
- C. GPI (Greenman-Petersen, Inc- Engineering Consulting Firm) updates: Nicole Rogers recapped the current Complete Streets Prioritization and Traffic Calming Plan. There were 71 projects originally identified as needed. They had to prioritize so they created categories of concerns, safety, access, mobility, ease of implementation and project support. Although all 71 projects were highlighted, 35 projects were identified as high priorities or shovel ready. GPI is seeking additional citizen feedback on the project prioritization and its components. Some examples and options to consider when reviewing the plans:
 - a. Mature tree impact- sidewalk may go over the root system.
 - b. Wider sidewalk/bike lanes with green strip between roadway and sidewalk.
 - c. Shared use path on one side of roadway and a sidewalk only on the opposite side.
Both sides would have a green buffer
- D. Traffic Calming Policies: QinRui will ensure a link is on the town webpage.
- E. TAC input: TAC will hold a separate meeting prior to the Select Board meeting scheduled for February 24th to discuss the Complete Streets plan.
- F. Hayward and Main: proposed traffic signal is in compliance with Mass DOT plans. Current plan has the best bike path options in the designer's view, which is the wider shared use path on West side of the road where there is more room between historic houses and the roadway and a sidewalk only on the opposite side. The potential downside of this plan is the narrower travel lanes which may impact emergency vehicles. This will also be added to the Special TAC meeting for discussion.
- G. Stow Street: Factors have changed since first added to the Sidewalk Prioritization Plan (development of Jones Field, increased traffic congestion and speed, increased foot traffic, addition of a child center). Consider whether to make Stow Street one way.
- H. Mass DOT has expressed concerns about the design for the bike lane at the Route 2 access points. This will also be discussed at the Special TAC meeting.

At 7:14 pm, A motion to close the meeting was made by Paula Walsh and seconded by Chris Brandon. Roll call was done, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Attachments:

All the information is available on the Engineering Division's website <https://www.actonma.gov/126/Engineering>



Information on the Complete Streets Plan is linked here <https://doc.actonma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-18716> which includes the updated Traffic Calming Policy

Information on the Main Street Route 2 to Acton Center Complete Street Assessment is linked here <https://doc.actonma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-18751>

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 way-finding project to connect communities by bike and pedestrian, by MAPC and MassTrails of MassDOT.*

MAGIC= Minuteman Advisory Group on Inter-local 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