



Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2021
7:30 pm
Via Zoom

Present: Franny Osman (Chair), Luke Evans, and Paula Walsh

Select Board Members Present: None

Absent: Julia Day

Also present: Nirupama Valankar, Council on Aging Liaison and Alexis Walls, of Mass. Public Health Association, invited

1. Opening

Chair Franny Osman opened the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Ms. Osman read the Town mandated script for virtual meetings

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The June 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed and edits made. Paula Walsh moved to approve the minutes with the edits, Luke Evans seconded. There was unanimous approval to approve the June 2021 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes from the TAC July 2021 will be delayed until the next meeting.
- B. Board of Selectmen: No updates
- C. Hazards Reporting: No area towns appear to be using online reporting systems so no recommendations could be made at this time for Acton.
- D. Ms. Osman was able to share the responses she had received from Austin Cyganiewicz regarding several questions TAC had on the status of several services:
 - 1. Van usage statistics are available under Transportation on the town website. Of note is that not all options are visible when using a phone or tablet.
 - 2. The intermunicipal agreement will be signed after Select Board approval in September.
 - 3. The voucher program is nearly its final process approvals and talks between the involved departments will be completed soon. An agreement has been reached with Rides with Joanne to supply services.
 - 4. The full return of van services, including the CAT, have been delayed due to a number of reasons including staffing shortages and financial constraints. The town is actively seeking qualified drivers.
- E. Counsel on Aging Update: Ms. Valankar provided the following updates:
 - 1. The COA has been having increased attendance at its programs with more than 50 people attending on a recent day. It is believed that only a small percentage of whom are using the van services.



2. The COA Board was recently informed by the town that amongst the short term goals identified at a recent meeting was to add a park at 352 Main Street dedicated to Senior Citizens including an outdoor gym area.

F. Sidewalks:

1. Taylor Road: David Spector, citizen, reported that the Conservation Commission Meeting was held this evening and the Taylor Road project was discussed. GDR provided blueprints of the proposed project however final approval would not be made until after the DEP permit approval and approval from the Historical Committee which is due to meet in September. Town officials present at the meeting were said to be optimistic that the project will be shovel ready by October 2021 and will be completed in November 2021. Mr. Spector will continue to update TAC on the progress.
2. River Street: Ms. Osman reported that the town has received numerous letters of concern about the safety of pedestrians and bikers on River Street. Ms. Osman reported there was a disturbing incident that recently occurred where a pedestrian signaled for a driver to slow down only to have the driver verbally berate the pedestrian for an extended period of time.
3. Ms. Osman will reach out to TAC member Julia Day, to assist with reviewing the Sidewalk priority list.
4. Once the Sidewalk priority list has been reviewed, a separate meeting dedicated to Sidewalks will be planned.
5. West Acton crosswalk was recently highlighted in Marian Maxwell's local newsletter for a police activity where 9 separate vehicles were ticketed for traveling through the crosswalk within a 45 minute period. Suggestions were discussed such as how to make the crosswalk more clearly evident to approaching vehicles or installing a regular traffic light at the location. No final recommendation was made.

G. Citizens Concerns:

1. No new concerns

3. New/Special Business

- A. Invited guest: Alexis Walls of Massachusetts Public Health Association updated the committee on the Regional Transit Authority Advancement Bill S.2277/H.3413.
 1. An Act to increase regional transit accessibility in the Commonwealth.
 2. A fact sheet was provided highlighting the benefits of the bill, a link is provided below.
 3. Ms. Walls encouraged citizens to contact their state representatives in support of the bill and a sample phone script and an email template were provided and links are attached below.
- B. Road Safety Audit Report:
 1. Town Manager John Mangiarati forwarded the Road Safety Audit Report for High Street which all members of TAC have received and will be discussed at length at the next TAC meeting. A link to the report is listed below



4. Adjournment

At 8:54 p.m., it was moved by Paula Walsh and seconded Luke Evans to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Attachments:

[2021-6-9_High Street_RSA final.pdf](#)

[\(House + Senate\) RTA Bill Co-Sponsor Phone Script - Google Docs](#)

[\(House + Senate\) RTA Bill Co-Sponsor Email Template - Google Docs](#)

[RTA Advancement Bill Factsheet_2021-2022 \(mapublichealth.org\)](#)

Acronyms:

ADA= Americans with Disability 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