



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2022

5:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

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

Absent: There is currently one open position on the committee

Select Board Representative: Jim Snyder-Grant

Invited guests: Austin Cyganiewicz; Paulina Knibbe; Cameren Cousins; Emi Azar (Council on Aging; substituting for Nirupama Velankar)

1. Opening

Chair Franny Osman opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

2. Regular Business

A. Shared concerns

- a. David inquired if there had been traffic mitigation studies relating to the Kelley's Corner project.
- b. Daniel Gilfix requested a status update on the River Street one-way project.

B. Sidewalks

- a. David Specter noted that sidewalk work on Taylor Road is in progress from Route 2 to Conant school. The part on Conant property is already complete.
- b. Daniel Gilfix suggested that the latest status of the priority list be shared along with the next decade's completion timeframe.
- c. Jim Snyder-Grant inquired if there is a mapping between sidewalk tiers and the funding plan.
- d. Rama Balakrishna suggested that the priority list be updated based on the latest information from Engineering.

C. Select Board update from liaison

- a. Jim Snyder-Grant noted that sidewalks are now a part of the 10-year capital plan.

D. Nascent Uber program: Austin Cyganiewicz stated that there was still no response from Uber for collaborating on an on-demand taxi service. One option would be to team with Go Sudbury while we wait to establish contact with Uber.

E. Jim Snyder-Grant was requested to remind TAC about Town meetings of potential interest to TAC (such as capital planning sessions and budget presentations).



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. Austin Cyganiewicz said that the “Making the Connections” contractual paperwork is ready for submission.

3. New/Special Business:

A. Cameren Cousins (former chair of the Sidewalk Committee) and Paulina Knibbe (former Select Board liaison to the Sidewalk Committee) accepted invitations to share their past experiences with the workings of the Sidewalk Committee and provide information about the sidewalk priority list.

- a. Cameren Cousins spoke about the origins of the Sidewalk Committee (~2007):
 - i. The priority list was created as a way of maintaining a transparent process to rank potential sidewalk locations and track their progress.
 - ii. Important factors were discussed, including walk access to schools, neighborhood walkability, safety, and access to local businesses.
 - iii. Point values were allocated to each factor.
 - iv. About 20 locations were selected in the first round (Tier 1). Every sidewalk candidate was evaluated by two people. Tier 2 locations were subsequently added.
- b. Paulina Knibbe spoke about the committee’s operations around 2016-18:
 - i. Tier 3 locations were added based on Google Maps data and site visits.
 - ii. The list was shared with Town’s engineering department for action, including reviews of streets that may be up for paving; obtaining signatures from landowners if necessary; and working with the state when state routes crossed the chosen locations.
 - iii. The criteria list was updated in 2018 to include accessibility and equity considerations, and to better reflect the changes in Town’s population density since 2007.
 - iv. The committee was shut down in 2018 due to various reasons (outdated charter; shift to complete streets and pedestrian/bicycle interactions; lack of volunteers to serve on the committee; need for a broader transportation advisory committee).

B. Update on the taxi program

- a. Austin Cyganiewicz said that Town is working on implementing an \$80K regional grant for supplemental taxi services (potentially through taxi company collaborations) involving Sudbury, Bolton and Stow. Rides by Joanne will not continue, and other local partnerships are being explored.



- b. Town's budget is still being finalized, and Austin will continue to advocate for better transportation services in light of perceptions of reduced taxi ridership. Franny Osman highlighted that the suspension of the rail shuttle during the pandemic may have contributed to this reduction, with MBTA ridership also trending lower than pre-pandemic levels. The demand-responsive CAT shuttle is showing rising ridership though.

C. Discussion on the recent accidents on Route 2A

- a. Jim Snyder-Grant gave an overview of plans to upgrade safety on Great Road. Over-the-road lighting to improve visibility of pedestrians is scheduled for early summer in collaboration with the state. The complete streets redesign is a separate effort undertaken by Town.
- b. Jim mentioned that the state has been progressing on a major redesign of the Route 2 intersection with Taylor/Piper roads, which is currently at the 25% design phase. It is likely to be in the TIP for 2025 financial year.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Franny Osman and seconded by Paula Walsh and approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:20 PM.

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

TIP=Transportation Improvement Program

TMA=Transportation Management Association