



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2023

7:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

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

Absent: There is currently one open position on the committee

Select Board Representative: Jim Snyder-Grant

Invited guests: Emi Azar- Council of Aging Liaison

1. Opening

Chair Franny Osman opened the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes –

- a. The December 8, 2022 minutes were reviewed. Franny Osman motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Paula Walsh, Roll call was conducted, unanimous approval of minutes, 4-0.

B. Regular Business:

- a. Shared Concerns and member updates:

i. Vans:

1. The question was raised, if there is a fee to use the vans. The vans continue to be free.
2. Rama offered to create a Survey Monkey pertaining to Van services

ii. MCOA:

1. Regional transportation council, organized by Susan Barrett, the Lexington transportation coordinator. The goal of the council will be to inform the participating communities with what services are available.
2. Transportation related meetings have been scheduled for January and February 2023 for those interested in attending, contact Franny Osman for the link.

- iii. Making the Connections: The \$5,000 grant money was tied up due to an administrative delay and was not spent as required by 12/31/2022.

iv. Cross Town Connect:

1. Austin could not attend tonight's meeting but sent an update regarding ridership: Although, the ridership statistics are down compared to pre-pandemic levels, there has been a steady increase in ridership, doubling since 2021.



2. Questions to ask Austin:
 - a. What happened to the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money?
 - b. What is happening with the Rail Van?
 - v. Sidewalks:
 1. There is no sidewalk update from Engineering. Anecdotally, Rama shared that he had seen progress on Taylor Road before the snow began recently.
 2. Since the previous TAC meeting, Franny and Rama were able to meet and review which sidewalks still need an update; for example, River St. Jim Snyder-Grant was able to share that Corey York of the Engineering department recently updated the Select Board that there were ongoing discussions about the format of the School and River Streets intersection.
 - vi. Speed limit law: There is a new law about default speed limits; places where the speed limit is not posted, it is assumed to now be 25 mph.
 - vii. Adaptive Bike Coalition: May need to tweak the system to a reservation system so someone doesn't arrive at NARA Park and not have a bike available for them.
 - viii. Council on Aging updates by EmiAzar:
 1. The new Pool Table is now in place
 2. Continental Breakfast is now being offered for \$1
 3. Seeking a part-time chef to offer a coffee shop style ordering service.
 4. The COA is looking for a collaboration with someone needing a commercial kitchen.
- C. Select Board Update:
- a. The town is investigating how a municipality can mitigate the type of tragic traffic related events that have recently occurred in town. Suggestions included:
 - i. Mailboxes that open on both sides
 - ii. Speed limits
 - iii. European style traffic calming tactics
 - iv. Pedestrian education: Wearing brighter clothing and understanding that vehicles take time to stop
 - v. Improved lighting

3. New/Special Business:

A. Sidewalk Rankings:

- a. The rankings need updating by the town, in particular, which projects are completed.
- b. The Tier system as explained at the last meeting was to indicate longevity rather than prioritization by scoring methods.



- c. Available funding of 7 Mil, according to Mr. Snyder-Grant, will not be sufficient to complete all the projects needed by the town. Prioritization will be critical in determining which sidewalks to start with.
- d. Title 90 funding can be used for sidewalks, not just for repaving of roadways.
- e. Zhengyu recommended getting a breakdown on budgeted vs actual costs. Rama recommends also getting information on what factors were involved that would have impacted those costs.
- B. Timing of TAC meetings: Fourth Wednesday evening of the month at 5:30 pm was agreeable to the members. Mr. Snyder-Grant suggested committee members meet during the day with town employees and report back to the committee.
- C. South Acton: New law 3A requires that MBTA towns find new multi unit homes/50 acres within 1/2 mile of the train station.
- D. Regional Transit Authority Legislation: The RTA Advancement Bill is an act that will increase funding for regional transit accessibility
- E. Bike Trail Opening Day Event: Laura Davis is now working with Mass PIRG and is hoping to be able to coordinate an event on the Official Opening of the Route 2 Bike Trail Overpass.
- F. Kelly's Corner: Franny shared that she will be submitting an article as a private citizen, asking for a zoning change for Kelly's Corner
- G. Chair nomination: With Franny Osman choosing to step down as the Transportation Advisory Committee Chair, a vote for a new Chair was held. Paula Walsh moved to nominate Rama Balakrishna as Chair, seconded by Franny Osman. Roll call was conducted and Mr. Balakrishna was unanimously approved as the new TAC Chair.

At 9:20 pm, a motion to close the meeting was made by Paula Walsh and seconded by Rama Balakrishna. 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