



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2024

5:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

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

Absent: Zhengyu Huang and There is currently one open position on the committee

Select Board Representative: Jim Snyder-Grant

Invited guests:: QinRui Pang-Town of Acton Engineer

1. Opening

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

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Tabled

B. Shared Concerns:

- a. Signage for MBTA train arrivals is not always accurate . Recently, a wheelchair rider had to quickly move to the opposite platform.
- b. Crosswalk light at Nagog Hill Road and Main Street was not working on 1/2/2024. QinRui will look into it, but she also recommended emailing the Engineering and/or Highway Departments for any future events.

3. New/Special Business:

- A. Engineering update: QinRui Pang from the Town Engineering Department didn't have any updates to share as work has ended for the season.
- B. Traffic calming document: QinRui would like TAC's input on the document by February so Engineering can have a completed document by the end of the fiscal year.
- C. Select Board Update: Jim Snyder-Grant couldn't offer any insight on transportation. The Select Board is working on the town budget and how to bridge the gap. If the override fails, everything will be at risk for funding cuts. Franny raised the point of why the town is worrying about re-paving the Town Hall/Library parking lot when such a large budget gap was looming.
- D. Sidewalks: Rama is still reviewing the tiers and how the list might best be amended. The Capital Plan still contains 7 million for sidewalks but as Jim explained, this was for a 10 year plan. There is no budgeted funding for sidewalks in the 2024 and 2025 budgets. In addition, all Capital Plans are in danger. Rama plans to do a spot check re-Scoring to see how this compares to how sidewalks are currently listed.



- E. Friends of the Sidewalks account: Franny again raised this as a funding source which Jim Snyder-Grant said that although possible to create such a fund, funding at such high amounts would be difficult.
- F. Wheelchair accessible grant: Franny and Mike Gowing would like to submit a wheelchair accessible electric vehicle application on the town's behalf. Talking to Lowell Regional Transit Authority.
- G. Regional Transit Innovation Grant: paratransit vans must be available at the same hours as the fixed route vans. Franny and Rama will connect with Julie to work on it together, \$15 million is available. The grant trustees envision about \$100,000 per project, however, one way to increase the amounts awarded would be to partner with other towns and create a cohort project. The State encourages cooperation between cities and towns. Franny will invite area towns to a meeting in the near future. Grant applications are due January 19, 2024.
- H. Streetscan: QinRui described the vans with special sensors in the rear which are driven over roads to detect potholes and other road pavement conditions to help prioritize paving projects. The overall rating of Acton's roadways is 80, (between 80-100 is considered good). Very few spots had a low rating below 40.
- I. Chapter 90 monies: Chapter 90 funds are typically used for paving projects, but if Acton's paving is in good shape, perhaps the monies can be redirected towards sidewalk projects instead. The scan for our sidewalks is 84 for existing sidewalks.
- J. Regional Transportation Advisory Council is having a Meeting focused on microtransit scheduled for this coming Wednesday, January 10th at 2:30 pm. Contact Franny for login details.
- K. TRB (Transportation Research Board) Conference coming up: Rama will be attending.
- L. Working Document:
 - a) Expand CAT hours to include train schedule changes.
 - b) Expand CAT to location, i.e: adding a second van or adding a second van in a microtransit style.
 - c) Coordinating with other towns

At 7:04 pm, A motion to close the meeting was made by Franny Osman and seconded by Paula Walsh. 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