



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2024

5:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Rama Balakrishna (Chair), Paula Walsh, Chris Brandon, Andreas Kinzlmaier

Absent: Zhengyu Huang

Select Board Representative: Jim Snyder-Grant

Invited guests: Nirupama Velankar - Council of Aging Liaisons

1. Opening

Chair Rama Balakrishna opened the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The review and approval of minutes will be done at a future meeting.

B. Select Board Update:

- a. Jim Snyder-Grant reported that the Select Board is extending the taxi program. The Lowell RTA came forward with an electric van to be used as a second CAT bus. This allows the town to set aside funds that can now be used to extend the taxi program to the end of the year.
- b. The Select Board's short- and long-term goals continue to include transportation as a short-term goal. TAC members are encouraged to write individual letters to the Select Board outlining transportation needs.
- c. Jim has completed his term as Select Board Chair. In the coming year, Fran Arsenault will be the Chair, David Martin-Vice Chair and Alissa Nichols will be the Clerk.
- d. The Select Board has approved Andreas Kinzlmaier as a member of TAC.
- e. Jim Snyder-Grant drafted some edits to the existing Transportation page on the town's website and added a summary of available services to make the page more user friendly. There are still other edits that would be helpful to users such as the addition of maps, Rama was able to explain that GPFS (the General Parallel File System) is used by Google maps to track bus services but requires a fixed route to work so only the CAT van may be tracked. Additionally, it was noticed that the meeting time must be updated to read that TAC meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm.

C. Citizen Concerns:



- a. Paula Walsh asked whether the CAT could add NARA Park to the schedule for the Summer months.
- b. There have been reports to TAC members that rides have been cancelled to accommodate medical appointments. When riders are relying on the van services for work or errands, it degrades confidence in the van service. Why can't both medical and non-medical trips be coordinated with the available vans?
- c. Visually impaired Faulker Hill Road Resident is championing for a safer crossing of High Street. Currently there is no crosswalk for him to reach the sidewalk on the opposite side of High Street. Rama and Franny Osman met with the resident and walked his route with him from his home to the South Acton Train Station. They were able to name several added safety issues the resident has along his route. There is a five-foot drop on private property without any type of barrier. The resident was unaware of the drop. There is a large driveway at Erickson's Grain with no clear border alerting him as to whether he is in the roadway. At Main Street and High Street, there is a crosswalk, however, there is no light. The resident must walk a block down to School Street where there is a light for him to safely cross. Rama plans to write up the issues along with photos for the Select Board and Town Manager.

3. New/Special Business:

- A. Grants: There has been no response from either the town manager, John Mangiaratti, or from Julie Pierce, the town's Economic and Community Development Director on Rama's query about the Grant application due June 21, 2024. Jim Snyder-Grant offered to follow up with both as to the status of the grant applications.
- B. Sidewalks:
 - a. The Taylor Street Sidewalks project is continuing in the section closest to the intersection with Route 2, however, an agreement has not been reached with the Taylor Road homeowner for the property next to Minot. Chris described this corner as particularly difficult to maneuver around due to the very tall hedge obscuring the view.
 - b. Sidewalk Excel Sheet: The excel sheet discussed at the last meeting has been updated and shared by Rama and QinRui. TAC members are encouraged to review the methods used by the old Sidewalk Committee and the updated evaluation metrics and provide comments on how best to rate sidewalk criteria.
- C. Crosswalks: Prospect Street Childcare complaint: There appears to be a sight distance issue with the current crosswalk placement. We will need QinRui to update TAC on progress there.
- D. Bikes: The Bike Trail signage is on the back burner until the NRG representative returns.



- E. Acton Transportation Action Plan: Travis Pollock had to put this on the back burner but will work on it again this Summer.

At 6:48 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 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