



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2025

6:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

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

Absent: Andreas Kinzmaier and Chris Brandon

Invited guests: Nirupama Velankar-Council on Aging Liaison

1. Opening

Chair Rama Balakrishna opened the Transportation Advisory Committee Special meeting at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was in attendance with one absent member having supplied a detailed opinion in an email to the Committee.

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The November 20, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed. Rama Balakrishna moved to accept the minutes and Zhengyu Huang seconded. Roll call was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved with typographical edits.
- B. Council on Aging: No updates

3. New/Special Business:

- A. Tonight's meeting was called to review and give feedback to the town, specifically to Engineering and the Select Board on the following:
 - i. Complete Streets Prioritization Plan
 - ii. Traffic Calming Plan
 - iii. Alternative designs for Main Street
- B. When reviewing the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, a question was raised as to how several qualify/quantify criteria were graded. When weighing public comments, was there any verification that the respondents were Acton residents or transversed the roads in question on a regular basis. How were the walk/bike scores computed? Could there be a way to integrate the sidewalk priority list and traffic calming locations in the scoring?
- C. Alternative designs for Main Street:
 - i. The committee unanimously preferred Option 2 due to the provision of connectivity of the bike lane along the entire corridor.
 - ii. Regarding the environmental impact of the 3 options- Will the described number of trees impacted by the design reflect actual removal of those trees or is it possible some trees will remain but the



proposed sidewalk, bike path and/or roadway construction will impact the trees in other ways (such as paving over the roots)?

- D. Traffic calming plan- The committee questioned if the decrease in the travel lanes would be sufficient to calm the traffic.
- E. The chair Rama Balakrishna will send an email to Engineering and the Select Board informing them of TAC's Option 2 preference and of the questions the committee had as described above.

At 7:36 pm, A motion to close the meeting was made by Paula Walsh and seconded by Zhengyu Huang. Roll call was done, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Attachments:

All the information is available on the Engineering Division's

website <https://www.actonma.gov/126/Engineering>

Information on the Complete Streets Plan is linked

here <https://doc.actonma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-18716> which includes the updated Traffic Calming Policy

Information on the Main Street Route 2 to Acton Center Complete Street Assessment is linked

here <https://doc.actonma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-18751>

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 way-finding project to connect communities by bike and pedestrian, by MAPC and MassTrails of MassDOT.*

MAGIC= Minuteman Advisory Group on Inter-local 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