



Hi TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2023

5:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Rama Balakrishna (Chair) (Connection lost at 7:10 pm), Zhengyu Huang, Franny Osman Paula Walsh

Absent: There is currently one open position on the committee

Select Board Representative: Not present.

Invited guests: Emi Azar and Nirupama Velankar - Council of Aging Liaisons; QinRui Pang-Town of Acton Engineer

1. Opening

Chair Rama Balakrishna opened the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes –

- a. April and May 2023 minutes reviewed and approved with edit.

B. Shared Concerns:

- a. Expand CAT Bus service to include NARA Park

3. New/Special Business:

A. Engineering update:

- i. QinRui Pang from the Town Engineering Department updated the Committee on the status of numerous projects on the existing sidewalk projects.
- ii. Ms. Pang transferred the existing sidewalk projects list into a new template developed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT). Mass DOT has a matrix to help determine the most ideal design based on traffic volumes and other factors. A copy of the updated list will be sent to TAC.
- iii. Other departments: as new projects are added to the list, there may be the need to include other departments, such as planning, to the discussion.
- iv. Specifics on some of the projects included:
 - i. Main St, Maple Street, School Street High Street section was discussed in some detail with specific questions about possibly creating a bike lane under the Main Street bridge. Ms Pang explained that would only make sense if someone developed the lot at that site and an agreement can be reached between the developer and the MBTA.



- ii. Main Street in the Center of town: Asphalt must set before permanent line painting can occur, which is anticipated to be late July or early August.
- iii. Prospect Street project: Closing the gap to make the street a one way.
- iv. School projects: incorporated into the Kelly's Corner project.
- v. New Engineer: Acton has hired a new engineer.
- vi. Projects list: Going forward, updates will be made using the Mass DOT formatted Sidewalk List. As projects are completed and dropped from the list, new projects can be added. The goal will be to keep the list at 20 active projects to keep the list manageable.
- vii. Brook Street: The project has been completed as originally perceived. However, a new issue has since arisen, the need to add a bike lane and a sidewalk. There isn't enough room for a sidewalk unless the bridge can be made first one way then the other way, using lights at both ends of the bridge controlling traffic.
- viii. Refuge Islands: Refuge Islands must be at minimum, 5-7 feet wide with panels designed so someone in a wheelchair can fit and not be exposed to moving traffic.
- ix. Main Street, North Acton: Complete Street Project Planning is underway by Engineering for the section from Great Road to Ledgerock.

B. Bikes:

- i. The Route 2 Overpass Bridge is open. The ribbon cutting celebration originally scheduled for June 30th has been postponed due to weather.
- ii. Adaptive Bikes: there are now 7 different styles of bikes available at NARA Park. Online reservations are recommended. Bikes can be reserved for 2 hours, at no cost to Acton residents and \$5 for out-of-towners.

C. Rail Station: No updates.

At 7:28 pm, Mr Balakrishna had not been able to reconnect to the meeting. 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,

Documents presented or discussed during the meeting:

- 1. High St proposed crosswalks pilot program 6.15.2023.pdf
- 2. High St proposed crosswalks 6.15.2023.pdf
- 3. 60199 – Acton-Prospect-Main – DRAFT 100 Percent 2023-04-21.pdf

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