



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2024

5:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

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

Absent: There is currently one open position on the committee

Select Board Representative: not present

Invited guests: Chris Brandon- potential new committee member and Eva Mostoufi-Department of Developmental Services in Acton (attending to learn more about available services)

1. Opening

Chair Rama Balakrishna opened the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

2. Regular Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Tabled

B. Shared Concerns

- a. MCI Concord closing June 2024; question raised if this will positively impact traffic at the Concord roundabout.
- b. Franny testifies on behalf of the League of Women Voters on the regional transit Bill number House 3272 and Senate 7277. The Joint Committee Website describes the bill as “An act to increase Regional transit accessibility in the Commonwealth.”
- c. There is a general understanding that the transit funding budget will be decreasing, although no formal announcement has been made yet.
- d. Lowell Transit Authority applied on behalf of Acton for the purchase of an electric vehicle.

3. New/Special Business:

- A. Engineering update: QinRui Pang from the Town Engineering Department was unable to attend and no update is available.:
- B. The town has applied for a microtransit grant of about \$1 million to increase services (generally 6 am to 8 pm) The available MassDOT innovation grant funding budget is currently \$15 million for fiscal year 2024. The town’s request includes hiring a transportation coordinator and having a dispatcher/troubleshooter available 24/7 for issues relating to transportation but mainly for microtransit (electronic dispatch).
- C. Nashoba Regional Greenways MassTrails application is on hold- was to be used for common signage on the bikeways.



- D. Sidewalks: the Committee continues to want to reevaluate the validity of the ranking for sidewalk projects based on standardized criteria rather than the tier system which appears to be simply based on when the project was added to the list. Rama will reach out to members of the former sidewalk committee for input and will ask QinRui to update the current list. The Committee discussed ways to evaluate the status of projects going forward, discussions will continue at future meetings on how best to reassess the rankings.
- E. Select Board Update: not available. It was recommended that the Committee receive copies of the Select Board Meeting Summarizations (go to Select Board page of Town's website, votes recorded document) to keep abreast of Select Board activities.

At 6:33 pm, A motion to close the meeting was made by Paula Walsh and seconded by Franny Osman. 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