



## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2025

5:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

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

**Absent:** None

**Select Board Representative:** Jim Snyder-Grant

**Invited and identified guests:** Nirupama Velankar (Council on Aging Liaison), Franny Osman (Acton Exchange), Elizabeth Hora, Bob Sekuler

### 1. Opening

- a. Chair Rama Balakrishna opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

### 2. Regular Business

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - i. The March 19, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed. Paula moved to accept the minutes and Andy seconded. Roll call was taken and minutes were unanimously approved with typographical edits.
- b. Council on Aging Update: None
- c. Select Board Update:
  - i. The town has a new director of IT and innovation so should be able to better address web site issues now.
  - ii. Elections update, selectboard unchanged, DPW building didn't pass
  - iii. Bike – Sat May 17 Minute Biker Response ride to Concord Museum

### 3. New/Special Business

- a. Citizen/Member Concerns:
  - i. Franny Osman raised a concern that there still is no crosswalk at High Street and Faulkner Hill Road. Requested many years ago. Was deferred because town needed to do a study – which was done years ago. Rama and Franny recently walked the intersection again with the blind citizen who was part of the original request. The request was repeated to the town, but still no crosswalk has been painted.
    1. Jim replied there have been emails from Jim and Rama to the town manager on this with no reply; Rama said he still owes an update to the town manager on this.
  - ii. Franny Osman question – now that the town has an electric van provided via a state grant, what are the plans for it? Are there plans to improve the CAT bus, such as using the electric van? On-demand micro transit? And/or are there any changes to the CAT? She would like an update on transit in town.



1. Chris replied that he only has third hand information on these topics so suggested we invite town and/or Transaction personal who manage the van services to join a future TAC meeting and provide an update.
  2. Franny suggested having a forum to provide update about town transit systems.
  3. Bob asked about notice in library talking about a transit service that was being discontinued – TAC speculation is this was an old notice from last year. This restarted previous discussion from previous meetings that the town isn't very good at cleaning up outdated transportation signs and web pages.
    - a. Note – “good” 2025 Transportation Services link:  
<https://www.actonma.gov/626/Transportation-Services>
    - b. “Bad” 2022 CAT schedule link is under the “where can I go” question on this page (the Download button provides a 2025 schedule now):  
<https://www.crosstownconnect.org/town#CrossActonTransit>
  4. Paula asked that Chris let TAC know when the new scheduling software is deployed.
- iii. Elizabeth Hora – Asked about prompt notification of town web-based surveys. Jim answer: sign up for town announcements on the website. Can also check the announcements page on the web site.
- b. Engineering update:
- i. Go directly to Corey for updates until a new engineer is hired.
- c. No update on sidewalks due to no construction during winter but Rama will circulate sidewalk docs to TAC so we can decide how to move forward on sidewalk project rating.
- i. Bob suggested that when the committee goes through criteria for sidewalk projects, we need to provide specific reasoning for changes so everyone understands why they are being made.
- d. Transportation Action Plan – Rama will try again to engage the gentleman who offered to help get this going a while ago.
- e. Bob Sekuler asked about bus service to NARA, Paula noted it wasn't included in the new CAT schedule. Bob suggested evening transportation for NARA events would be good. Jim noted town policy is for departments to individually pay for van transportation for events out of their budgets. Recreation is mostly funded by donations so new donations might be required to do this.

#### **4. Adjournment**

A motion to close the meeting was made at 6:20pm by Paula and seconded by Chris. Roll call was taken, 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*