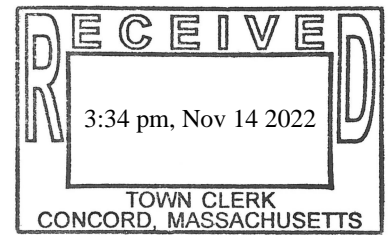




**JOINT MEETING - CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY BOARD /
CONCORD ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**
November 16, 2022
7:00 PM
MEETING AGENDA



Meeting Location: Select Board Meeting Room, Town House, 22 Monument Square

1. Welcome (Courtney) [7:00]
2. Introduction of CAAB / CSEC Members [7:05]
3. CAAB Business (Courtney) [7:15]
 - a. Approval of CAAB minutes from September 2022 Meeting
 - b. Upcoming Meetings
 - c. Updates from Chair's Breakfast
4. CSEC Business (Sharon) [7:25]
 - a. Approval of CSEC minutes from September 2022 Meeting
 - b. Upcoming Meetings
 - c. Updates from Chair's Breakfast
5. Sustainability Director Update (Courtney or Jerry) [7:35]
6. Specialized Energy Code Update (Courtney) [7:45]
7. Initiatives / Potential Collaboration [8:00]
 - a. Home energy Scores
 - b. Municipal Compost
 - c. Transportation Initiative - Bike Safety
 - d. Climate Vulnerability Assessment
8. Community Outreach (Sharon) [8:35]
 - a. Member Liaisons
 - b. Upcoming Events
9. 'On a lighter note' [8:45]
10. Public comments [8:50]
11. Adjourn [9:00]

CAAB Upcoming meeting dates and clerks (Meeting time: 7PM)

- i. Nov 16 - Paul
- ii. Dec 21 - Brian
- iii. Jan 18 - Brad
- iv. Feb 15 - Gavin

Distribution

Committee Members: Courtney Eaton (Chair), Brian Crouse, Jake Swenson, John Bolduc, Paul Kirshen, Ben Slayden, Gavin Colbert, Brad Hubbard-Nelson

CSEC Members

Town: Town Clerk, Matt Johnson (Select Board Liaison)

Local Groups: Mothers Out Front, ConcordCAN, League of Women Voters

Mobility Action Blueprint Summary

Action Description	Champion	Initial Actions
Increase use of public transportation and other low-carbon and no-carbon transportation options	Sustainability DPLM DPW	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transportation Roadmap (done) 2. Pilot public trolley between Town centers / MBTA (done) 3. Regional trolley service
Accelerate adoption of electric vehicles	CMLP Sustainability EV Working Group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate public deployment for EVSE infrastructure (level 2 / level 3) 2. Explore EV charging incentives 3. Financial incentives for residents / businesses for EV
Implement long-term plan to electrify school and municipal fleets.	Sustainability CCRS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct baseline study (done) 2. Develop municipal and bus fleet electrification plan (done) 3. Vehicle transition plan (??) 4. Identify locations for more public EV charging infrastructure
Improve availability, accessibility and connection between bicycling and walking paths and sidewalks	DPW DPLM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review Complete Streets priority list and begin implementing 2. Evaluate regulations related to incorporating bikeways into new / re-development 3. Explore potential funding / incentives and Regional collaboration opportunities multi-modal transportation 4. Evaluate opportunities for more bike-friendly community

**Town of Concord
Climate Action Advisory Board**

**Thursday, October 19, 2022
Zoom Meeting**

Present: Courtney Eaton (Chair), Brian Crouse, Brad Hubbard-Nelson, Ben Slayden, Gavin Colbert, John Bolduc

Guests: Erin Stevens (Transportation & Mobility Planner), Laura Davis (Transportation Advisory Board), Pamela Dritt, Nick Pappas (Transportation Advisory Board), Andy Puchrik

Chair asked Board members to re-introduce themselves given new and recent appointments.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of September 21, 2022 approved unanimously.

Chair's Update

- Chair asked if members willing to meet in person on November 16. All members indicated availability for in-person attendance. Chair will confirm next meeting will be in person and location.
- Sustainability Director's search continuing. Three to four candidates will be scheduled for interviews. Search remains open. Brad offered to help with candidate resume reviews and/or interviews.
- Chair asked Brian to report on Kicks for Cancer event. Support systems for event like this, e.g., recycling and composting not readily available. Brian and Courtney contributed to the effort this year. CAAB involvement was also in memory of Peter Nichols, former CAAB member, who passed away in the past year from cancer.
- School Committee Sustainability Committee: Chair asked if Brad was still involved. Brad willing to represent CAAB. Chair would like to have CAAB involved.

Transportation Advisory Board Collaboration

- The Chair was interested to have this discussion because the Town transportation plan dovetails with climate action plan.
- Four mobility priorities in climate plan including promoting no and low carbon options; accelerate electric vehicle options; implement long term plan to electrify school and municipal vehicle fleet; and improve accessibility, availability and connection between bicycling and walking paths and sidewalks.
- Laura Davis, member of TAB, present.
- Erin Stevens, the Town's transportation and mobility planner, gave an overview of the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) planning.
- Select Board gave TAB a broad mission so board wished to develop a roadmap.
- Roadmap to Concord Transportation & Mobility: Longer term, immediate work, and overarching themes.

- Existing transportation options documented including Concord tours, taxis, transportation network companies, bike chare, commuter rail, and rideshare services.
- Town hired Erin to be transportation planner and support the work.
- Working with regional partners including other towns.
- Working on study for a comprehensive transportation plan which will include complete streets. Current complete street projects will remain. Road safety will be an important part of the effort.
- Go Concord is transportation brand. Other towns will have similar efforts and they will be coordinated regionally.
- Hybrid trolley has launched, replacing shuttle bus. It has a bike rack, is low to ground.
- Bike share is active; 403 rides, 1,290 hours ridden. Trolley averaging 50 rides per week.
- Laura was formerly liaison to CAAB for Mothers Out Front. Infrastructure and culture interact. Community needs to be engaged so they feel ownership and adopt alternatives.
- Nick Pappas, chair of TAB, joined.
- Brian noted Concord density is not very high to urban areas, wondering how this affects options. Nick feels economics is key.
- Erin: people feel connections are lacking, e.g. Center to West Concord or to major destination like Emerson Hospital. Planning will focus on those key routes. Trolley service being funded currently by ARPA, but other grants are being sought. Service is seasonal. Working with Lexington to expand regionally.
- John asked about possibility of being more ambitious with local or regional bus service, noting the Vineyard Transit system is robust and the island has a similarly sized population to Concord. It may receive substantial state support.
- Nick noted goal is to get people to drive less. Erin is working with Concord Academy. Metrics around reducing driving are key to emissions. Businesses support providing more options.
- Visitors also desire non-auto options, but getting around town once here is challenging. MBTA commuter weekend service is underappreciated and could use more financial support.
- Brian asked about expanding bike share and the rise of e-bikes and other alternatives. Erin said Town owns little land at Thoreau Depot. Would need to work with private owners to site bike share station. Better wayfinding would also help tourists. Town going slow on rentals. E-bikes and e-scooters are a learning curve and will be addressed as they come.
- Ben asked if possible to work with Blue Bikes. Erin said Town has reached out to them.
- Ben asked about level 2 and 3 chargers. Nick said EV charging is not part of their roadmap. Erin noted sustainability directors worked with CMLP. There is an EV working group.
- Gavin asked about planning for bike trails expanding, especially between center and West Concord. Reformatory branch stops at river coming from the east. Nick felt it's probably the only opportunity for a rail trail other than Bruce Freeman. There are conflicts with conservation issues. Bruce Freeman and Reformatory trails are the only areas in conservation areas that are open to bikes.
- Brian noted past TM had proposal to pave Reformatory branch.
- Brad wondering if possible to improve Rte 2A to provide better commuting route to Lexington for bikes. Erin noted complication of working with National Park Service. Nothing currently in process.
- Nick noted historic character is an issue that has to be considered in any kind of road changes.
- Ben: Given Plug Power is located in Concord, is there an opportunity to work with them on supporting fuel cell buses?
- Courtney asked about driving to schools. Nick noted there is a lot of traffic going to schools. School bus model works for elementary schools but not high schools, because of extracurricular activities. So current bus system is inadequate for the high school users. The issue is not at top

of agenda for the School Department and Committee. Erin said trying to develop initiatives on topics like safe routes to school. But currently bandwidth at schools is low due to other issues like the pandemic.

- Nick feels TAB and CAAB could combined efforts to bring more weight to discussions.
- Laura noted TAB focuses on multi-modal transportation options. Concord has roughly one vehicle for every man, woman, and child. Most trips are short, so there is an opportunity to shift these trips from single occupancy trips. E-bikes are a game changer, but infrastructure is a big challenge.
- Laura invited anyone on CAAB to meet, walk, bike to discuss transportation.
- Courtney would like to go back to the Concord carbon footprint to inform coordination of transportation and climate planning.
- Nick noted emissions modeling is important to consider to see if it is reflecting our transportation. Town needs to do more on data collection. Erin noted the Town is collecting some data. It happens mostly on a voluntary basis.

Public Comment

Pamela Dritt – Remembers previous Sustainability Director advised need to electrify everything and green the grid. Electric buses provide numerous benefits such as vehicle to grid power, cleaner air, etc. Would support stopping buying new diesel buses.

Laura Davis – Is CAAB going to advise Town to opt into the forthcoming net zero code?

Pamela Dritt said Junction Village project has been withdrawn.

Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:02 pm.