



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting: September 12, 2023 (via Zoom)

Meeting called to order 7:01 pm by chairman Laura Davis.

Roll call taken: present: Nick Pappas, Mark Gailus, Daniel Schragger, Laura Davis, Erin Stevens (planning dept)

Not in attendance Phil Posner

Reviewed and approved of June 28, 2023 minutes and August 22, 2023 minutes.

Ms. Davis asked for an addition to the August minutes which was approved unanimously.

CHAIR REPORT

9-20 6:30 pm MBTA Communities meeting

9-30 3:00 pm Family Bike Rodeo

10-1 Concord Drives Electric Test Ride

10-3 7:00 pm TAC meeting

10-4 7:45 am - 4:30 pm Sheraton Boston Moving Together Conference

Review of trip data in Middlesex County. 66% of trips in the county are 5 miles or under.

Bike share so far this season 330 rides, over 1000 miles ridden, rain has a major effect on usage, Acton stations have increased usage (1 one usage).

JUNCTION PARK REVIEW

Site visit 9-18-23 12pm to 1 pm. Reviewing the use of traffic calming methods such as large planters.

Comprehensive Transportation Study update

October 19 evening open meeting with Stantec. Casual conversation looking for public's input.

October 3 for Stantec to meet with TAC regarding TAC role, etc.

Ms. Ackerman (Select Board) encouraged TAC members to think about what we want to accomplish.

Climate Vulnerability Assessment letter

Ms. Davis drafted letter which was voted on unanimously approved to send to the Select Board) as amended by Messrs. Pappas and Gailus' comments on public transportation. Mr. Gailus moved, Mr. Pappas seconded.

Process for reviewing Community Transportation concerns

How do we discuss specific areas of concern. What is TAC role?

How does traffic management (Highway & grounds, Engineering, DPW, Erin Stevens, police) group operate?

1. What info is needed 2. Who is involved 3. TAC's role 4. Desired outcome review

1. Review general policies 2. Clarify Community goals/values 3. Prioritization of staff resources, 4. Desired outcomes

Ms. Ackerman suggested a joint meeting of Traffic Management Group and TAC to discuss these issues and to open up a regular dialog with the TMG.

PUBLIC TRANSIT BRIEFING

Ms. Stevens spoke with the towns of Bedford and Lexington about local public transit options. Still awaiting contact with Acton. Bedford is running it's own in house deviated fixed routes has one vehicle (BLT). Lexington is strictly fixed routes with three buses (Lexpress). Both running since the 1970's as part of the Suburban Bus Service.

Conclusion: There is a need for funding. Fare box collections are minimal.

Mr. Gailus suggested corporate sponsorships be explored.

Ms. Davis suggested explore us joining an RTA (Regional Transit Authority). Suggested a wonderful book "Better Buses Better Cities"

Ms. Stevens has spoken with the COA about expanding service. COA does shuttle senior citizens for Town Meeting but perhaps it could be increased to include other community members.

Next steps:

Mr. Pappas we should develop a vision of a useful transportation scenario.

Coming up with a public transportation model benefiting restaurants, etc. in town.

Ms. Stevens stated that some of this will come up in the transportation study.

Review what's been suggested and each of us come up with individual visions.

No correspondence for review

Liaison comments: Ms. Ackerman asked range of Stantec study such as public transportation. Looking for a robust discussion on October 3.

As respects TMG, we should be comfortable inviting staff to meetings as needed.

Ms. Davis introduced new member of TAC Marianna Hill who is a civil engineer specializing in site planning and storm water planning.

Public comments: None

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Pappas, Mr. Schragger second. Unanimous at 8:52 pm.

Submitted: Daniel Schragger

