

Transportation Advisory Committee

July 12, 2017, 7:15 pm to 9:45 pm, Town Hall 2nd floor conf. room

Present: Wayne Chouinard, Seth Federspiel, Chuck Giroux, Mike Gordon, Pam Heidell, Brian Kmetz, Melissa Laube, Marjorie Moores, Howard Muise, Corey Rateau, Laura Wiener

Missing members: Bill Copithorne, Jeff Maxtutis, Victor Rivas, Scott Smith

Non-Members Present: None

Administration. Minutes of 6/14/17 approved unanimously. Other handouts were reviewed.

Public Comments. No members of the public were in attendance.

Town Issues.

- Wayne provided updates on town construction, the Arlington Center Safe Travel Project, the Mass Ave Rebuild Project, Mystic Street Bridge, and the Lake Street/Bikeway Signalization Design Review Committee meetings. Wayne noted that the camera to identify bicycles at the Mass Ave/Swan Place signal will be taken down. There was additional discussion about publicizing the new pedestrian push-button activation at the Mass Ave/Pleasant St signal to promote awareness of the changes in its operation.
- Laura noted that the Town will be walking a potential BRT route with the Barr Foundation as part of its efforts to procure a grant from the Foundation.
- Corey is currently working on a number of grants, including one to procure additional equipment. He is also currently looking at a number of sign requests, including one related to a stop sign at Rawson Rd/Warren Street where there is currently a tree obstructing visibility.

Speed Safety Zones. Howard asked about the potential for speed safety zones at Herbert St/Magnolia St, and at the entrance to Menotomy Rocks Park. Corey noted that a speed safety zone may not be possible at entrance to Menotomy Rocks Park because speed limits are already defined along Jason Street.

Gibbs School Traffic Analysis. There is a previous traffic study done for the School Committee that can help with the TAC's analysis at Gibbs School. This previous study analyzed drop-off/pick-up and one way intersections in the area. There are concerns about how pick-up/drop-off at the school could impact traffic in Arlington Center. A working group was formed with Howard, Charles, Corey, and Pam. Howard may ask Scott or Jeff to join.

Town Day. Melissa, Pam, Brian, and Howard volunteered to help Marjorie review and develop materials for Town Day.

Parking in Arlington Center. Laura reviewed updates from the PIGC. At the last meeting, the PIGC brainstormed a list of projects that could be implemented using the funds from meter revenue. At the next Selectmen's meeting, they will be asked to designate a Parking Benefits District, appoint PIGC as the oversight board, and comment on the list of improvements. Improvements were mostly pedestrian-focused (e.g., snow removal, lighting, Broadway Plaza improvements, etc.). Corey commented that the Town is looking into purchasing meter covers for meters that are out of order.

Mass Ave Phase II. Laura discussed the Mass Ave Phase II progress, which would go from Pond Lane to Bartlett St. The Town is currently applying for a MassWorks grant to do work between Pond Lane and Pleasant Street (Phase 2A), to include realigning of Alton Street to intersect with Mass. Ave., renovation of Broadway Plaza, and sidewalk work and road realignment. The redesign of Broadway Plaza could include relocating the bus stop, parking and Memorial Park.

Seth commented that planning should also consider the potential for a Hubway Station at Broadway Plaza, which would be about 40' long.

Appleton/Paul Revere. Mike noted that a summary of ideas on these projects has been sent over to Wayne to review and make suggestions, and possibly start to draft drawings of some of the improvements. One suggestion would be to put a portable speed trailer up on a temporary basis going toward Park Ave on Paul Revere Road, which Corey will look into.

School Zones. Marjorie met with Ed Starr to go through some of the school zones. Only Ottoson and Gibbs Schools have not been approved for school zones so far. Marjorie is in the process of submitting a letter to the Board of Selectmen with recommendations for these two schools. Recommendations for Brackett School are also almost complete.

Pedestrian Flag Program. Scott will be doing a study at Mass Ave/Varnum to consider adding pedestrian flags at the intersection.

Bike Share. Seth reported that Hubway negotiations with existing communities are still underway. Arlington and other new towns will follow. The Town would be hoping to launch a program in 2018 but are still early in the process.

Safe Pedestrian Access at Bus Stops. Melissa is working towards wrapping up this project with a memo that will include priority locations.

Adjourned at 8:30 PM.

- Meeting Materials:
 - Meeting Packet for July: Agenda 7/12/17; Minutes of 6/14/17; Individual Action List 7/12/17; Project List 7/12/17.
 - Memo from Marie Krepelka, Board of Selectmen Administrator, to Howard Muisse, TAC Chair, regarding Gibbs School Traffic Analysis, July 12, 2017.
 - Memo to TAC from Wayne Chouinard, TAC Update Items, July 12, 2017
 - "Broadway Plaza and Veterans Memorial Park" dated Aug. 30, 2016