



## Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: March 13, 2019

Time: 7:15 PM

Location: Town Hall Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Members in Attendance: Daniel Amstutz, Lenard Diggins, Brian Kmetz (non-voting), Melissa Laube, Jeffrey Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Scott Smith

Members Absent: Wayne Chouinard, Charles Giroux, Michael Gordon, Corey Rateau

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***Jeffrey Maxtutis called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.***

**Public Comments:** None.

Jeffrey announced that Pam Heidell had resigned from the committee.

### **Town Issues and Activities:**

Daniel Amstutz noted several items:

- At their meeting on 25 February, the Select Board approved the Bus Rapid Transit recommendations. Support materials are on the Town website. Dan noted that the reduction in variability of bus travel time was an important result of the pilot. There should be \$25k in funding available from the state to fund implementation of the BRT lane. To use it, Town Meeting will need to approve an appropriation. The BRT working group will be meeting with East Arlington businesses, and another public meeting is likely before full implementation. The Police have requested a detail officer for the first 30 days. Bus automatic vehicle location data showed some improvement in travel time even after the pilot, presumably due to the ongoing bus signal priority and relocation of the stop at Lake Street.
- Daniel noted that tonight was the deadline for comments on the better bus project. The Town had sent a letter regarding bus routes that affect Arlington:
  - Supportive of bringing the 95 to Arlington Center
  - Supporting Somerville's position regarding the 89
  - Supportive of the minor proposed routing changes in Burlington to the 350
- Lenard Diggins reported that weekend busing on the Red Line appears to be creating some service problems for the 77, due to congestion in the bus tunnel at Harvard. He also noted that the equity analysis of bus service has not yet been published.
- Daniel met with a resident of Burton Street, regarding the intersection of Mass/Forest/Burton. Concerns about the pedestrian crossing, snow on the crosswalk, and traffic/geometry.

[Howard Muise arrived at 7:40 PM]

- Daniel also reported on a complaint to the Parking Implementation and Governance Committee from the owner of the Regent Theatre about the placement of the terminus for

the Route 80 bus. Jeff noted that this area was addressed when taxi stands were examined. Perhaps TAC should consider it.

- Finally, Daniel announced that the bicycle parking zoning amendment will be heard at the Arlington Redevelopment Board meeting on Monday 3/18.

### **Administration:**

Minutes of February 13, 2019 were approved unanimously with one typo correction.

### **E-Bike Legislation:**

Daniel Amstutz introduced the item. There is proposed State legislation to clarify the status of E-Bikes, and provide municipalities with the power to regulate them on shared use paths. ABAC has written a letter to the Select Board requesting that the Town support the legislation, and is asking for TAC's support of this letter.

Scott Smith noted that under Federal regulations, low powered E-bikes are treated as consumer products, and not as motor vehicles. Massachusetts has a law (Chapter 90, section 1B) pertaining to "motorized bicycles" (e.g., mopeds). However, Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles regulations (540 CMR 2.00) state that registration and licensing requirements do not apply to low-speed electric bicycles. The relevant paragraph, 2.05(3), is as follows:

*"Low-speed Electric Bicycle. A two- or three-wheeled vehicle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (one h.p.), whose maximum speed on a paved level surface, when powered solely by such a motor while ridden by an operator who weighs 170 lbs., is less than 20 mph. These bicycles are not "motor vehicles" and are regulated by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. They are neither required nor authorized to be registered as "motorized bicycles" in the Commonwealth and the operator is not required to have a license or learner's permit but is subject to the traffic laws of the Commonwealth".*

Melissa Laube expressed the concern that the law allows higher speed (Class 3) E-bikes to use bike lanes on roads. Scott responded that this was not different from current law, where "motorized bicycles" are allowed to use bike lanes.

TAC voted to support the ABAC letter: 5 yes and 1 abstention

### **Update: Appleton St/ Paul Revere Rd**

Howard Muise explained that the 72-hour count at the intersection of Park Ave and Appleton St is on hold because TAC does not have any funds this fiscal year to pay for the traffic count. The count is needed to determine if a signal is warranted at this location. Several years ago, TAC had received a multi-year appropriation, but the funds were not rolled over into this fiscal year. TAC has requested \$2,000 for the 2020 fiscal year (starting in July 2019).

***Jeffrey Maxtutis adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm, and invited members to the TAC Winter Social.***