



## **Transportation Advisory Committee**

Date: August 11, 2021.

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

Location: Conducted via Remote Participation (Zoom).

### **Minutes.**

#### **1. Administration.**

Members in Attendance: Dan Amstutz (DPCD), Bill Copithorne (DPW), Lenard Diggins, Ray Jones, Melissa Laube, Howard Muise, Scott Smith, Laura Swan (Chair), and Shoji Takahashi.

Members Absent: Tycho Nightingale and Corey Rateau (APD)

Members of Public in Attendance: Judy Crocker (SRTS), Linda Epstein, Caroline O'Brien, Petru Sofio, and Joe Solomon.

The Chair provided notice regarding Remotely Conducted Meetings, referring the members to the agenda attachment entitled "Governor Charles Baker's 3/12/2020 Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law". The Chair reviewed the meeting ground rules and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

#### **B. Approval of July 14, 2021 Meeting Notes.**

Minutes of the July 14, 2021, meeting were approved.

#### **C. Correspondence Sent/Received from July 9, 2021 to August 9, 2021.**

- Email dated July 29, 2021 from Jamie & Nicholas Gallo, "Request for Traffic enforcement in Downing Square".

This email also was sent to APD, and APD will send the traffic unit to assess the present situation and enforce, if warranted. Jeff Maxtutis remarked that this is a longstanding issue. Len Diggins said that he would follow up with APD on enforcement. He noted the danger to pedestrians and recommended going to the Select Board, if necessary.

- Email dated August 3, 2021 from Philip Goff, “Lake St at Rt 2 onto the TAC agenda?”

This email inquired about striping for westbound bike lane on Lake St and the Rt 2 bridge. Scott Smith remarked that there is room to stripe a bike lane, particularly under the Rt 2 overpass, and the Town should encourage MassDOT to stripe a bike lane on the section it controls. Howard Muise added that Lake St southbound approaching Rt 2 is not striped as two lanes. It could be striped for a dedicated right-turn lane, which would make room for bicycles under the overpass as most motor vehicles at the intersection are turning right onto Rt 2.

In response to a question from Laura Swan, Dan Amstutz said that this section is located within the Town but is in the MassDOT right of way. Also, he had a meeting with David Loutzenheiser (MAPC) and a couple of staff from MassDOT about this intersection, and is working with MAPC, MassDOT, and MassBike to determine next steps for implementing bike lanes through here.

**D. Vote to recommend Tycho Nightingale, Associate Member, to fill At-Large seat on the committee**

As Howard Muise will soon retire from TAC as Member-at-Large, TAC voted for Tycho Nightingale, presently Associate Member, to fill the At-Large seat on the committee. Tycho Nightingale has served on the Lower Washington Street Working Group and the Mass Ave Hotel Project.

**E. TAC liaisons to other Town committees and update of Bylaws**

Laura Swan discussed the need to update the TAC Bylaws (3 pages), including updating the language (e.g., Select Board vs. Selectmen) and liaisons to other Town committees. Updating Bylaws requires only an internal TAC vote.

Len Diggins recommended that groups have a liaison to TAC instead of TAC having liaisons to groups. He added that TAC Associate Members could be liaisons. Dan Amstutz noted that TAC should formalize expectations and responsibilities of the liaisons. Howard Muise and Scott Smith remarked that formal TAC liaisons should be assigned to standing Town Committees with the expectation is that the TAC liaisons would attend standing committees frequently and keep TAC apprised of transportation-related matters.

Organizations in the Bylaws (and others) with their current liaisons are:

ABAC. Scott Smith.

Council on Aging (CoA). TAC does not have a representative attending CoA meetings.

Disability Commission. No formal TAC liaison. Informal TAC representation by Corey Rateau and/or Wayne Chouinard. DPW Director attends.

Parking Advisory Committee. Howard Muise attends the Parking Advisory Committee (PAC) as the TAC representative. The PAC makes recommendations for use of Parking Benefits District (PBD) funds, which may be used to make transportation improvements such as updates to Broadway Plaza, which is scheduled to undergo work this fall by MWRA and Verizon. Dan Amstutz organizes the PAC, which most recently advanced mobile parking payment (Pay by Phone). In the near term, the PAC likely will investigate parking issues in other commercial areas of the Town.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS). None.

School Committee. Laura Swan.

Walking in Arlington. None.

Laura Swan, Howard Muise, and Scott Smith will form a Working Group to update the Bylaws.

## **2. Public Comments.**

Petru Sofio observed that the Lake St/Minuteman Bikeway Signal was not operating properly: (1) westbound bike detection is not working (“Wait for Green” sign does not function); and (2) when the bike signal turns green the walk signal is not activated at the same time. Also, automobiles have been driving on the bike path. Scott Smith concurred adding his observations at ~4:30pm about the long signal delay for bicyclists traveling westbound and the pedestrian signal not changing.

Bill Copithorne responded that he has not heard of problems with the bike detection and will look into it. He acknowledged that the “Wait for Green” sign has not been working as specified. The manufacturer thinks that a module is missing, and this is being addressed. Regarding the bike and walk signals: these are not coordinated by design. To eliminate automobiles turning on the bikeway, straight arrows have been added to the automobile signals.

## **3. Town Issues/Activities.**

### **A. Bill Copithorne provided an update from the Department of Public Works (DPW):**

Chestnut Street Update: Recommended signage has been sent and will be produced. DPW and MassDOT are reviewing the TAC Recommendations to

ensure conformity with an agreement the Town made with the state a few decades ago as a requirement to receive transportation funding.

Continuation of capital work for roads, pavement preservation, and accessibility: Line-striping delays caused by contracts ending; renewed bids are out for contract for striping to-be completed in the fall season. Sidewalks and curbs are being constructed near Dallin School.

**B. Dan Amstutz provided an update from the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD).**

Connect Arlington. Presented the plan to the Select Board, which was unanimously endorsed. Implementation begins immediately.

MassTrails Grant of \$80,000 was awarded to the Town for a plan to connect the Mystic River Path to the Minuteman Bikeway. The RFP to select the consultant will be posted.

Net Zero Action Plan was endorsed by the Select Board. As it pertains to transportation, it supports Connect Arlington. Includes plans for EV charging stations and energy use in housing and businesses.

Scott Smith remarked that the Massachusetts SRTS program has a “Signs and Lines” grant program that might be useful for Hardy School and the Minuteman Bikeway.

**C. There was no update from the Police Department (APD).**

**4. Update: Mass Ave at Appleton St**

Dan Amstutz noted that a design was chosen by the Design Review Committee to-be brought to the Select Board for the meeting on September 13, 2021. There are ongoing discussions with DPW on certain design elements. Petru Sofio inquired as to a ballpark figure on the reconstruction cost associated with the project. Dan Amstutz responded that he has no information and will follow up.

**5. Update: Appleton St and Park Ave study**

TAC inquired with DPW on the status of the traffic study of the adjacent signalized intersections which is necessary for TAC before moving forward with a recommendation to the Select Board. Bill Copithorne responded that he will look into it.

Dan Amstutz remarked that the Town is looking into hiring one consulting firm to address multiple traffic-related issues for the following intersections: Mass Ave and Appleton; Appleton and Park Ave; and Chestnut St and Mystic St.

**6. Update: Speed Enforcement in Crosby St Neighborhood**

Shoji Takahashi said that he will be annotating the locations of signs in the Crosby St area. The Working Group will convene to review and assess possible recommendations.

**7. Update: Mt. Gilboa Traffic Concerns**

Ray Jones inquired about lane restriping on Lowell St and the status of the RRFB and speed-feedback sign. Bill Copithorne will follow up on these items.

Dan Amstutz updated TAC that a request for bids for a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) on Lowell St as well as a RRFB for the intersection of Quincy St and Gray St were recently posted, likely for installation this fall.

**8. Update: SRTS Dallin**

Dan Amstutz presented to TAC a flyer for a Community Meeting regarding the pilot Arrival and Dismissal plan for Dallin Elementary School developed by Judy Crocker of MassDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS). The flyer includes a Project FAQ that describes the proposed changes and the project timeline. The flyer will be sent to the Dallin community and abutters.

The pilot will assess the safety and functioning of the arrival-dismissal plan, including changes to traffic flow through the neighborhood. Laura Swan added that there will be an additional traffic supervisor at the intersection of Renfrew St and Florence Ave.

Some of the proposed changes require Select Board action, and the goal is to have it on the Select Board Agenda for the meeting on September 13, 2021. Len Diggins cautioned about time frame and urged bringing the agenda to the Select Board as soon as possible.

**9. Update: Thompson Area Traffic Calming**

Laura Swan said the school has a new Arrival/Dismissal Plan and can communicate that to the Thompson parents, but has concerns about cut-through traffic on North Union St.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.