



Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: July 12, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

Location: Conducted via Remote Participation (Zoom).

Minutes.

1. Administration.

Members in Attendance: John Alessi (DPCD), John Aslanian, Beth Benedikt, Wayne Chouinard (DPW), Lenard Diggins, Melissa Laube, Scott Smith, James Stubbe, Laura Swan (Chair), and Shoji Takahashi.

Members Absent: Jeff Maxtutis and Corey Rateau (APD).

Members of Public in Attendance: Paul Schlichtman.

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 June 14, 2023 Meeting Notes.

Minutes for the Meeting of June 14, 2023, were approved.

C. Town Day Table.

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC) invited TAC to host a joint table at Arlington Town Day on September 23, 2023. TAC will provide its easel, which is stored in the Town Hall Annex, and TAC is seeking volunteers to staff the table. Laura Swan and Melissa Laube said that Town Day was a worthwhile event to interact with the public. Jim Stubbe recommended having a one-page handout that includes a section on submitting requests to TAC, tree trimming, and other requests.

John Aslanian said that DPW often hosts a table that includes a schedule for construction. He and Laura Swan suggested including a map with information on

street projects. Wayne Chouinard responded that DPW can come up with information to post as paving follows water projects, and curb and sidewalk projects are planned. Scott Smith noted that the east end of Broadway is of particular interest to residents. John Aslanian and Len Diggins will attend the EALS and Broadway Coalition meeting tomorrow.

Scott Smith added that Mass Ave will be closed between Pleasant St and Jason St. Many attendees walk or bike to Town Day with many automobiles parked nearby. He asked that the Town consider providing portable bike racks.

Motion to accept the ABAC invitation for TAC and ABAC to host a joint table at Arlington Town Day was approved.

D. Membership Update.

Motion to appoint John Aslanian to the Member-At-Large position vacated by Tycho Nightingale was approved. Laura Swan will send a recommendation to the Select Board.

E. There was no correspondence sent/received.

2. Public Comments (for information only, not for action).

There were no public comments.

3. Town Issues/Activities (not already on the agenda).

A. Update from the Department of Public Works (Wayne Chouinard, DPW).

DPW is short on staff at present and is completing FY23 coordination of ongoing construction.

Chestnut St Pedestrian Safety Improvements: Curb and sidewalks on Chestnut St have been completed, and final paving will be completed next week. RRFB equipment is being ordered and will be installed after final paving. Pavement markings will be placed ~2 weeks after final paving is completed.

Warren St and Medford St: Following completion of Chestnut St, curb work will be done on Warren St. Paving on Warren St and Medford St is being scheduled for September. Traffic signal equipment will be upgraded at the Warren St and Medford St intersection with a new ground-mount cabinet, accessible pedestrian signals (APS), and pedestrian countdown timers. No changes are planned to the pedestrian crosswalks.

Pavement Preservation Project: Rubber chip seal surface will be applied in August on roadways abutting Broadway including Trowbridge St, Waldo Rd, Henderson St, Sawin St, Teel St, and Amsden St. Pavement milling and resurfacing will be conducted in late August on roadways near Thompson School including Everett St, N Union St, and University Rd.

Minuteman Bikeway Alewife Bridge Resurfacing: Bridge deck replacement has been rescheduled for next year as the bid was delayed. Asphalt transition to wood deck will be addressed this year.

B. Update from the Department of Planning and Community Development (John Alessi, DPCD).

BlueBikes Stations: Next Monday, DPCD will request Select Board approval for the placement of two Bluebikes Stations: (1) Mill St near Minuteman Bikeway; and (2) Mass Ave near AHS/CVS, which will occupy two parking spaces. The Town is working on a contract with Lyft, which owns BlueBikes.

Complete Streets Prioritization Plan: MAPC, DPCD, and the consultant will review comments. Complete Streets Prioritization will be completed and submitted by September 1. If it is approved, the Town will become eligible for \$500,000 from Mass DOT starting November 1.

Mass Ave/Appleton Design Update. Discussions are continuing with interested parties. There is a change in traffic signal to address comments from the developer of 1165R Mass Ave.

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

4. Discussion: Bicycle Lane Design Guide.

Kickoff meeting with Toole Design is being scheduled, which will examine the existing bicycle lane design matrix. The group is seeking a TAC Representative with a commitment of two meetings. Scott Smith and John Aslanian volunteered.

5. Discussion: Thompson School (Regis Rd).

Background: Regis Rd, which is a private way, is a one-way street moving traffic towards Thompson School. It was recently repaved as part of the Town's Better Process. Neighbors have noted increased motor vehicle speeds and are requesting that a stop sign be added at the intersection of Everett St. A challenge is the geometry of the intersection is not a typical four-way intersection or T-intersection.

John Alessi inquired with Town Counsel Doug Heim about what is permissible on a private way. The Town cannot install a stop sign unless there is a public need and agreement from all property owners. The residents can install a stop sign, if it is MUTCD compliant. The Town is looking to obtain permission from the residents.

Wayne Chouinard recommended that the Town conduct a thorough analysis for stop sign warrants to make sure that it is appropriate for the situation. Stop signs are not to control speeding issues. Also, there may be a visibility problem at the intersection, which can be addressed with No Parking to Corner signs. DPW will be paving Everett St later this summer, and it will paint a crosswalk at the intersection, which should improve the situation. Laura Swan: Traffic data collection would be useful information.

Scott Smith said that there was no crash history at the intersection, but there is a recent change in road conditions (i.e., repaving) causing a potential for conflict. He added that the Town, without requesting a TAC analysis, added a stop sign at end of Wellesley Rd at Everett St. This precedent and a mix of processes is a problem.

Paul Schlichtman, who is on the School Committee, said that the concern is 500-student Thompson School is at the intersection. Any observations taken during the summertime does not reflect a typical traffic pattern during the school year. The School Committee will send a recommendation to the Select Board. Len Diggins requested that TAC provide a recommendation before the start of the school year.

6. Update: Summer St and Victoria Rd.

Jim Stubbe showed a photo of make-shift pedestrian flags and cannisters hung at Summer St and Victoria Rd. Laura Swan said that TAC does have standards on the canisters and pedestrian flags and that these should be replaced. Wayne Chouinard commented that DPW will address tree limbs blocking the crosswalk sign.

7. Update: Eastern Ave.

Laura Swan provided a brief update that the Working Group is considering a recommendation of a 20-mph school zone or 20-mph speed safety zone on Eastern Ave.

John Alessi volunteered to look into the school and speed safety zones and whether they can overlap or other limitations.

8. Discussion: Transportation Review Process.

John Alessi informed TAC that he has been having informal discussions with Town Departments and Committees to understand what is working for transportation requests and what needs to-be improved. He has been tasked by the Select Board and DPCD Director to formalize a transparent process. One point has been on triaging requests such as simple vs. complex processes.

Scott Smith has been involved with TAC since its inception, and he provided historical background: In the early 2000s, the Town recognized traffic issues were becoming a problem including Mass Ave and East Arlington pedestrian fatalities. The Town sought to examine traffic issues include aspects of equity. Over the years, the Select Board has sent many different traffic-related issues for TAC recommendations. Unfortunately, simple issues can be sent to TAC and take too long to-be addressed. Residents would get frustrated with the long timeframe. He suggested that TAC could filter simple requests to DPW or APD. However, there needs to-be consistency in how TAC is involved.

Laura Swan asked how TAC could prioritize projects, and could the Select Board provide guidance. Wayne Chouinard said that he and Corey Rateau will meet with John Alessi to discuss possibilities on streamlining the process. Len Diggins said that the Select Board likes to send requests directly to TAC. He suggested that the TAC Executive Committee can handle the requests how it pleases such as directing the request to DPW or APD depending on what makes sense.

Jim Stubbe said that some towns have specific criteria for their transportation advisory committees to reject requests (e.g., traffic volume, speed). Scott Smith responded that TAC had developed criteria 20 years ago, but they need to-be revisited.

John Alessi said that the criteria will be part of a flow chart on the transportation review process (e.g., crash data, traffic data, proximity to schools or parks, including quantitative measures).

9. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.