



Transportation Advisory Committee.

Date: September 11, 2024.

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

Location: Conducted via Remote Participation (Zoom).

DRAFT Minutes.

1. Administration.

Members in Attendance: John Alessi (DPCD), John Aslanian, Bill Copithorne (DPW), Lenard Diggins, Melissa Laube, Ofer Mazor, Corey Rateau (APD), Scott Smith, James Stubbe (Chair), Laura Swan, and Shoji Takahashi.

Members Absent: Beth Benedikt and Jeff Maxtutis.

Members of Public in Attendance: Devin Bridgen, Jordan Glazier, Nandana Mewada, Paul Parise, and Joe Sasso.

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. Change of Chair position.

Jim Stubbe is now TAC Chair. TAC Members expressed appreciation to Laura Swan for serving as Chair.

C. Town Engineer.

Bill Copithorne was named officially as the Town Engineer.

D. Approval of July 10, 2024 Meeting Notes.

Minutes for the Meeting were approved.

E. Correspondence Sent/Received from July 5 to September 6, 2024.

No correspondence was sent or received.

F. Town Day, September 21, 2024.

TAC and ABAC will share a Town Day Booth. Thanks to Ofer Mazor for designing a banner, and Scott Smith for updating Crash Maps. John Aslanian will print them for the booth.

G. Vote: Purchase new pedestrian flags.

Corey Rateau had ordered pedestrians flags from Safety Flag Company of Rhode Island. Previously, flags were purchased in lots of 400 at \$1.61 per flag. Corey Rateau will check on the prices. Motion to permit TAC to pay up to \$1,000 for the purchase of pedestrian flags was approved unanimously.

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

Paul Parise discussed briefly a traffic concern on Washington St/Clyde Terr near Mohawk Rd. He will submit a request using the Roadway Safety Request Form.

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

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

Bluebikes Stations: Off-street asphalt installed for Bluebikes Stations have been installed. Town is awaiting a formal contract to have the stations installed. Snow removal at the stations will the responsibility of BlueBikes.

Traffic Calming Guide: A toolkit of temporary and permanent traffic calming design standards is being developed by Neighbor Ways so that the Town can be reactive to requests and proactive to needs. This will include a prioritization of locations considering, for example, Safe Routes to School routes, crash history, and speed data. Neighbor Ways will present and discuss the criteria and its weighting with TAC at the October or November Meeting.

Stratton Safe Routes to School Sidewalk Project: Public meeting on the removal of specified shade trees along the construction location. Additional trees will be planted. Select Board approved the plan, and the 100% design and right-of-way acquisition will move forward. Construction bid will be posted and construction is planned for 2025.

Minuteman Bikeway at Ryder St/Ed Burns Arena: A preliminary design is being developed to include (1) splitter island; (2) wayside; and (3) widened bikeway, where feasible.

Park Ave Safety Project: Stantec is the consultant for this project, and a timeline for public meetings will be advertised.

B. Update from the Department of Public Works (Bill Copithorne, DPW).

Curb-ramp Upgrades: Locations on Herbert Rd and Brooks Ave near Hardy School are underway.

National Grid Pavement Restoration: National Grid's long-relay project has been completed. Pavement restoration will begin next week. Another section will be completed later this autumn.

Arlington High School/Mill St Entrance: Traffic light installed at Mill St and Mill Brook Dr and active in 2-week flash mode. Signal timing will be activated next week. Signal is not coordinated with Mass Ave or Summer St. DPW conducted observations before signal activation and will compare them to observations after signal activation.

Broadway Water Project: Bypass pipes installed on sidewalk and construction will begin next week. Construction is scheduled to-be completed mid October.

Bikeway Bridge Deck: Contract has been awarded. Pavement restoration/repair to smooth the transition between the asphalt and bridge is scheduled for October. Scott Smith will update ABAC, and John Alessi will work on a public announcement on detours.

Sidewalk Restoration: Bids have been posted. Small projects might be completed before the end of the construction season. Most of the work will be performed next year.

Pavement Condition Review: This review is conducted every 5 years and will be completed this month. Results of the final report might impact the long-term planning on funds from the capital budget.

C. Update from the Police Department (Corey Rateau, APD).

Appleton St and Wachusett Ave: signage completed.

Stop Ahead: signage installed at Churchill Ave and Wildwood Ave; and Dorothy Rd and Burch St.

Hardy School: school zone painting and improved light timing.

Winter St: school buses are being blocked by parked vehicles. Old photographs show parking restrictions, but these were not codified. Town Select Board Agenda for No Parking on Winter St from Mass Ave to the tennis courts.

4. Discussion: Select Board Recap of SSR Proposal.

Select Board approved the TAC recommendations to rescind Special Speed Regulations (SSR). Thickly Settled 25 mph signs will be installed. SSR Committee will continue to meet to assess Safety Zone recommendations. The Town letter to MassDOT to rescind all Special Speed Regulations (SSR) above the statutory Town-wide 25 mph speed limit will be submitted this week.

5. Discussion: Gray St.

Observations made did not meet the threshold for installing a pedestrian crosswalk. Select Board requested that TAC examine traffic calming measures for this location.

John Alessi recommended that TAC wait for the Traffic Calming Toolkit, which will be ready in by the New Year. If TAC wants to make traffic-calming recommendations, a Working Group can examine possible changes to implement. Devin Bridgen said that Gray St can be challenging to cross as a pedestrian. He urges that TAC continue to examine possible improvements.

Jim Stubbe added that the speed limit on Gray St is 30 mph under SSR. If the lower 25 mph speed limit is helpful on Broadway and Park Ave, it might improve the situation on Gray St.

Bill Copithorne noted that fog lines were repainted on Gray St, which might slow drivers as the driving lane appears narrower. In response to a question from John Alessi, he said that Gray St does not have many vehicles parked on the side of the road.

6. Discussion: Gloucester / Endicott / Churchill.

Devin Bridgen and neighbors sent a request to the Select Board in 2023. DPW was asked to review the recommendations of the letter which comprised tightening turning radii and reducing asphalt.

Bill Copithorne responded that DPW aims to identify areas of the annual pavement improvements where these treatments might be incorporated. The residents' recommendations include treatments that DPW would consider. However, this location is not in the 3 – 5 year window of capital improvements.

Jim Stubbe recommended that a summary of this discussion be provided to the Select Board.

7. Discussion: Winter St and Oxford St

John Aslanian presented the comprehensive draft Memo. The original complaint was resolved with a change in Lesley Ellis School's arrival and dismissal procedure.

Scott Smith appreciated the observations. He noted that Winter St / Broadway is a business district, and it does not require the same amount of visibility as a residential area. Visibility at intersections is an issue throughout Town business districts.

Joe Sasso, resident of Winter St, added that Winter St / Mass Ave is used for pickups and drop offs for the nearby restaurants. Truck unloading should be considered. He said that limiting parking to one side of Winter St would address the challenges of buses and emergency vehicles transiting Winter St.

Nandana Mewada, a resident of Winter St for 19 years, said that there are frequent wrong-way drivers on Winter St. She suggests a Do Not Enter sign be added. She observed an improvement in the traffic with changes by Lesley Ellis in its arrival and dismissal procedure, but trucks get stuck behind the queue of vehicles at Lesley Ellis.

Corey Rateau commented that APD made observations. The Town will reinstate parking restrictions on Winter St by Lesley Ellis and Crosby Park that existed in the past and codify it. He also pointed out that no parking on Oxford St at the rear of Lesley Ellis is established, and APD will refresh the signage. At the Mass Ave / Winter St intersection, there is no parking to 50' from the corner (standard is 20'). The reason is that large trucks such as garbage trucks cannot make the turn.

Corey Rateau expressed challenges in extending the parking restrictions on Winter St past the Crosby Park as it would remove parking in front of residences. Joe Sasso countered that many residents support one-side parking on that stretch.

Corey Rateau and John Alessi asked that residents on Winter St sign a formal request for the removal of parking. Len Diggins countered that it is nice to ask residents about parking restrictions, but the space does not belong to the resident. Corey Rateau and Scott Smith added that there are many locations in East Arlington where parking could be restricted, and the Town should consider a general approach/process on assessing parking restrictions on narrow [25'] roadways.

8. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.