

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 11/12/08, 7:15 pm to 10:00 pm, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room
Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Sue Doctrow, Robert Lake, John Lentz, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Mike Rademacher, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Laura Wiener
Non-members Present: David Ward (Brooks Ave.), Sabine Keller (Brooks Ave.), David Stoff (Fairmont St.), Paolo Marinelli (Brooks St.), Carlene Hempel (Park Ave. Ext.), Donald Mills (Bow St.)

1. Public comments: Don Mills, a resident of Bow St. and a member of Covenant Church, spoke in support of the need for improvements at Downing Square. He and two other neighborhood residents met recently with Ed, Mike and Elisabeth for an update on the project. He found the meeting to be helpful, appreciates all the work that is going into this and looks forward to the public meeting on December 9th.
Dave Stoff of Fairmont St. spoke as a soccer parent with concerns about the proposed changes to the Thorndike Field parking lot. He feels that there needs to be more emphasis on separating pedestrians from cars. He sees cars backing out too close to kids and is concerned that there will be more hazards with a larger parking lot. Ed assured him that there was still time for input.
2. Thorndike Ph 2. Howard passed around a handout. He said that there is no recommendation of one alternative versus the other (of the two parking lot options discussed). Joe Connolly told him that a public meeting would be scheduled to review the parking lot plans, after which Joe will visit the TAC to update it on the outcome. This would probably not be until the January TAC meeting, at the earliest. Discussion of the handout: 1. **Access Road from Margaret St.** Howard said he believes there is a 50 foot right of way on the access road, which would allow sidewalks on both sides. No parking on either side is also suggested. Some question was raised in the discussion as to whether there was enough room for two sidewalks. 2. **Wayfinding signage.** This is a follow-up on suggestions from neighbors. The wayfinding signage is intended to suggest alternative parking sites and to direct people to the field, from locations indicated on handout. However, these are only suggested routes and the streets will remain 2-way. Howard said that probably people already familiar with the area will use Margaret Street but that, if the wayfinding signage is followed by those new to the area, it should relieve some congestion in the area. Scott mentioned that the wayfinding signage should include signs for bus parking and routes. He added that we should verify that there is enough room for the buses to turn at Varnum/Brooks and Varnum/Herbert, particularly if these streets are used for overflow parking. 3. **Internal parking circulation.** The purpose is to eliminate the need for multi-point turns by cars needing to turn around. Public comments—David Ward said he thought turnarounds for buses are inadequate. David Stoff suggested using Thorndike for buses, with a turnaround in the dirt areas. Scott responded that this end of Thorndike is a private way.
3. Downing Square. Public meeting with the neighbors is scheduled for December 9, at Peirce School. Purpose is to bring public up to date on the options for improving the intersection. Mike noted that improvements will have to be funded from grants that are not now in hand. May be able to use CDBG for curb cuts. May want to apply to TIP. Ed noted that town money will be needed for design.
4. Administration.
Meeting minutes of 10/8/08 approved unanimously.

Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.

Letter from Steve Surette about traffic around Ottoson, will be addressed when Safe Routes to Schools effort gets to Ottoson.

Mike noted that the curb cuts are being held up by problems with contractor meeting the requirements of the CDBG funding source. Trying to have a contract by spring, 09.

Thompson School phase 1, still some punch list items.

5. Winter Street—Howard reported on designating the Winter/Oxford Streets area a school zone. There are 169 students there, ages 6-22. He suggests getting rid of the crosswalk on Winter St. because the students generally arrive by car, and putting in a curb on easterly side of Winter St. Also suggested balancing the dropping off and picking up that now occurs entirely on Winter Street. Howard will draft recommendations, discuss with head of the school, and bring something to the next TAC meeting.
6. Warrant Articles—Ed is interested in a parking study. Laura thought it might be fundable by CDBG. She will talk to Kevin. Ed will discuss with Jack Hurd.
7. Westminster Traffic Calming. A report has been prepared to request structural improvements to the intersection of Lowell Street and Westminster Avenue in Lexington. Informal meetings were held with Selectmen Jack Hurd and Annie LaCourt, who has agreed to contact Lexington Selectmen. Entire project needs another public meeting, probably in January.
8. Mass. Ave./Pleasant St./Mystic St.—Request for clarifying signage for turn signals.
9. Russell Street—Parking plan with new restrictions was developed a few years back and never implemented. Neighbors are showing some interest in implementation now. The plan proposed alternating sides for parking, to slow down traffic. Police will look at speeds and TAC will inventory parking volume to quantify problem.
10. Snow removal at corners around schools—Mike will generate maps.
11. School updates
 - a. Dallin—proposed no parking on west side of Renfrew (105' from intersection with Florence), and George St (same) during school hours. Neighbors need to be notified before implementing. Safe Routes report on Dallin was received. \$200,000 is available for safety improvements.
 - b. Peirce—Phase 1B Recommendations were handed out. Mike will review.
12. Mass. Ave. Redesign—Public workshop held in October, roughly 60 people attended. Engineers are drawing now. Will meet with Cambridge to coordinate efforts. Is traffic count data available yet? Laura will find out.
13. Biking to School—Parent group is trying to change the current policy discouraging biking to school. Safe Routes usually includes a bicycling component. Met with members of the School committee. Looking for support from TAC.
14. Social—December TAC meeting will include a social. Voted unanimously.
15. Town Reports
 - a. Laura reported that the ARB will hold a hearing on November 17 regarding CVS proposal for 837 Mass. Ave. Because we are still waiting for a revised traffic study, the traffic portion of the hearing will be some time in December. The residential development proposed for Downing Square is unlikely to go forward because their permits have expired. Laura and Scott met with MAPC about pedestrian and bike access issues in the Alewife Station area.
 - b. Mike reported 2 cases coming to the Selectmen, acting as the Board of Survey—one new house lot on Elder Terrace (off Lowell St.), and 3 house lots off Washington Street.

- c. Robert Lake reported that the Town is stepping up collection of outstanding parking tickets.
16. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Handouts:

Ed's Meeting Package: Agenda, 11/12/08; Memos (3) from Marie Krepelka to Ed Starr, "Stop Sign at Spring Avenue and Newport Street" dated October 28, 2008, "Request for Traffic Light @ Park Ave., Paul Revere Road, and Wollaston Ave." dated October 22, 2008, and "Traffic Concerns in the area of Mass. Ave., Lowell St., and Locke St.", dated October 23, 2008; Comment from TAC web site, from Alan Jones, dated October 20, 2008, "Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups", dated 11/12/08; Project Status, 11/12/08; "2009 Meeting Dates for Transportation Advisory Committee", "Status of Outstanding Actions", 11/12/08; "Specific Actions for Stratton Ph 1b", dated 8/3/08; "Phase 1a Recommendations for Bishop School", dated 8/12/08; "Recommended School Zone at the Peirce School"; Draft Warrant Article re. Parking.

Minutes of 10/8/08

Recommendations for Winter Street, from Howard Muise, November 12, 2008

Perice School Phase 1B Recommendations for TAC Review, November 12, 2008

Bicycling to School at the Elementary Level, November 12, 2008

Dallin School, Proposed no Parking on West Side During School Hours, from Jeff Maxtutis

Current and Proposed Russell Street Parking