

Town of Arlington  
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Minutes of 2/21/2006, 7:15 PM, Town Hall Annex 2nd Floor Conference Room  
Submitted by Scott Smith

Members present: Joe Cahill, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jeff Maxtutis, Lt. Jim  
McHugh, Chuck Pappas, Ron Santosuosso, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Laura Wiener

Associates: Guillermo Bahamon, Erik Moore

1. Administration

The minutes of 1/24/06 were approved unanimously. Ed Starr reviewed the TAC project list and reported that Ralph Elwell has resigned, and thanked him for his several years of service to the town.

2. Downing Square

Ron Santosuosso presented plans for two sets of angle parking options in Downing Square. A shallow (30 degree) angle would provide five spaces (as would parallel parking), while a sharper (60 degree) angle would provide nine spaces. Lt. McHugh and Guillermo Bahamon raised the concern about safety and angle parking. The road width is approximately 34 to 35 feet. To investigate these concerns, we agreed on the following:

- Review the historic crash data
- See what the new Mass Highway design guidelines have to say about angle parking
- See if the centerline can be moved a few feet to the west to provide more of a buffer area.
- Review the sightlines between motorists backing out and northbound traffic on Park Avenue going over the bridge.

There was general agreement that reverse-angle parking would be too radical a change.

3. Lockeland and Mass. Ave.

Joe Cahill presented the delay results and the recommendations. With the current fixed signal timings, reducing the through lanes from two to one before the westbound approach to Mass and Lockeland would reduce level-of-service to D, a substantial reduction. Accordingly, he recommended keeping the merge at the current location, with improved markings and some parking restrictions on Mass Ave westbound between the intersection and Stop and Shop. He also noted that the current timing of the signal is inefficient.

Scott Smith noted that once the magnetic loops on the side street approaches are fixed (thus changing the signal from fixed time to semi-actuated), the delay for Mass. Ave. would be reduced significantly. He recommended that the intersection again be observed, and recommendations revisited, after the signal is fixed.

Elisabeth Carr Jones asked about the impact of the parking restriction on the local businesses. Chuck Pappas stated that this would probably not be a hardship (there is some off street parking available).

The committee unanimously voted the following recommendations:

- Add a solid white edge line along the Mass Ave westbound travel lane west of Lockeland
- Add no-parking signage along westbound Mass Ave from Lockeland to the Stop & Shop driveway
- Make needed repairs to the loops and signal at Mass Ave. and Lockeland.

#### 4. Forest Street

Ron Santosuosso presented a draft plan for the Forest Street repaving. Committee members suggested tightening the intersections with Park Avenue Extension and Heard Road. Also, there has been a long standing parking issue where residents have been allowed to park on the street or sidewalk. Dealing with the parking issues will require action by the Board of Selectmen.

#### 5. Department News

Ron Santosuosso reported that for the Summer Street reconstruction, the contractors will be back in mid-March. The entire project is expected to take another 18 months.

Laura Weiner reported that the town has prepared a letter to the MBTA protesting the proposed cutback in service to the Route 78 bus. Symmes is at a standstill. 40 Brattle Street is currently expected to have 16 units.

#### 6. School Travel

Scott Smith reported on the activities of the Safe Transport to Schools subcommittee. Specific proposals include:

- remote drop off for Ottoson, near the Park Avenue water tower, with a possible future location at the Recreation Center (Summer Street and Ryder). Elisabeth Carr-Jones noted the section of Cedar Street between the water tower and Fountain Road has no sidewalk.
- proposed criteria for traffic supervisor (crossing guard) deployment. Scott Smith presented draft criteria that included traffic volume, student volume, whether traffic control is present, whether the crossing is primarily for elementary school students, and the number of lanes.

Committee members suggested adding the following considerations:

- width of the street
- a finer breakdown on the age of the students
- sight distances
- separate factors for signal and stop sign control

We agreed that the draft criteria could be presented as a draft (subject to change), and that TAC was not endorsing the removal of traffic supervisor positions.

Ed Starr presented several options for the role of TAC in these school projects. There was general agreement that the third option presented “Work through the school administrations to get working groups with local stakeholders, with the TAC contributing but not leading,” was the best way for TAC to contribute. TAC could send a representative to each school-formed working group, and there would also be a subcommittee of the TAC representatives to help ensure town-wide consistency in policies and practices.

#### 7. Parking by Peter Pan

Elisabeth Carr-Jones presented a draft letter recommending that the current 20-foot parking restriction be retained. Scott Smith suggested that the letter state the substantive reasons for

keeping the existing restriction (reduced pedestrian and motorist visibility). With this suggestion, the letter was unanimously approved.

8. Route 60 and Mass Ave.

Ed Starr presented a list of short term possible actions, including the use of countdown signals and a review of markings and signage. We agreed to set up a meeting with BSC (2/27 at 5 PM)

9. Dallin School

Jeff Maxtutis raised the issue of a request for a handicapped parking space in front of the school. Lt. McHugh agreed to review this request.

10. East Arlington Parking

Scott Smith reported that there has been no action since the last TAC meeting.

11. Mass Ave Corridor Project

Laura Weiner reported that the earmarked funds can now be used for design work.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.

**Handouts:**

Agenda packet with agenda, letter from Board of Selectmen re: Appleton/Paul Revere, letter of resignation from Ralph Elwell, list of projects and working groups, minor project rotation list, list of Board of Selectmen requests, comments on how TAC can support current concerns for safe transport to schools, draft letter on parking by Peter Pan, Rt 60 / Mass Ave project update - from Ed Starr

January 2006 minutes – from Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Draft formula for determining the need for traffic supervisors, FWHA Safe Routes to School handout- from Scott Smith

Mass Ave/ Lockeland recommendations and calculated delays – from Joe Cahill

MBTA recommended service changes for Route 78 - from Laura Wiener