

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 8/15/06, 7:15 to 10:00 PM, Town Hall Annex 2nd Floor Conference Room
Submitted by Laura Wiener

Members and Associates Present: Ed Starr, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Laura Wiener, Lieut. James McHugh, Chuck Pappas, Howard Muise, Erik Moore, Joe Cahill

Residents Present: Jeanne Leary, Josephine Burden, Elaine Duffy, and Elizabeth Coyne, all from the Summer Street Neighborhood Association

1. Public Comments. Members of Summer Street Neighborhood Association were present and requested time to make TAC aware of some concerns. Jeanne Leary presented a list of concerns
 - a. Overflow parking from the ice skating rink. During hockey games, Rec. Dept. parking lot is insufficient. Cars overflow onto Summer Street and Overlook Road, causing an unsafe situation. Can TAC look into overflow parking lots? Ideas included Mirak lot and Lalicata lot on Ryder Street.

Ed recommended that the Summer Street Neighborhood Group send a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting TAC's attention to these matters.

Elaine Duffy of 216 Summer Street, then asked the Committee if it knew the present status of the crosswalks at Summer and Hospital Rd at Symmes, particularly their current planned location. Ed responded that Mass. Highway should have the most current plan. The Town will be putting in a crosswalk at Brattle and Summer Streets, west of Hemlock, after the State reconstruction is finished. He suggested that Ms. Duffy request the final plans from Symmes Redevelopment Associates (Jake Upton).

2. Administration
 - Committee welcomed back Lieut. McHugh
 - Minutes of 7/18/06 meeting were approved unanimously
 - Ed reviewed Board of Selectmen Requests list.
 - A letter was received from Webster Street residents and may be referred to E. Arlington group, when Scott Smith returns, next month
 - E-mail was received by Town Manager and referred to TAC. Lieut. McHugh has responded.
 - Dixon and Wheeler Streets stop signage—not visible, noted by Joe Cahill, who sent an e-mail to John Sanchez.
3. School Zones. TAC discussed proposing to Board of Selectmen design and purchase of a number of "School Zone" signs, to be placed as appropriate, around elementary schools and Ottoson Middle School. Each Principal, along with "Safe Routes" committee will decide on locations. Signs will say "School Zone, 20 mph" at designated hours. Jim will draft a proposed motion to BoS for the TAC to consider at its next meeting.
4. Bikeway Crossings. The existing crosswalks and stop signs were never formally approved by the BoS. They are therefore , unenforceable by the Police. It was decided that Jim as a representative of APD should send a letter to the BoS requesting authorization of the crosswalks and stop signs. Jim to request vote of approval. The TAC

also discussed taking up consideration of the recommendations made by Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC).

5. 1406 Mass. Ave (Taylor Rental). Developer of 1398 Mass. Ave. (Panera and Hollywood Video) has proposed a similar development for adjoining property at 1406 Mass. Ave., now Taylor Rental. The existing single driveway would service both with parking in the rear. Laura expressed concern about the high number of small spaces for compact cars (up to 40% is allowed by special permit in the zoning bylaw). Howard confirmed that this is way above actual number of compact cars on the road. It was also noted that the size of the regular spaces proposed is small. TAC suggested that Howard get Laura more information before September 11 ARB meeting. Laura requested that TAC review the current parking requirements within the zoning bylaw, and consider suggesting amendments for next Town Meeting. Jim suggested the Fire Department review the parking layout for this site.
6. Lockeland/Mass Ave. Joe Cahill reported that the timing for this signal was changed, and the loops fixed. . He recommended that no further changes be made since it is working reasonably well. Some improved signage should be considered. Further engineering study must be done before changing the sequence. Jim suggested we leave it as is for now and see how it's working. Committee agreed. Jim raised the issue of State Law Chapter 85, section 2., which indicates that only professional engineers "employed by the town" can modify signal sequences. Ed will check with John Maher about this.
7. Zipcar meeting follow-up. The meeting, held 7/26, was well attended by many enthusiastic supporters of Zipcar coming to Arlington. Dan Curtin, Regional V.P. for Zipcar attended. It looks like we will need a zoning amendment in order to provide parking in the municipal lot or other residential zones. They are pursuing parking spaces at an East Arlington Mass. Ave. business that is one of their vendors. They will come to TAC booth on Town Day with materials.
8. Oak Hill Drive Speed Hump. John Sanchez was not present to give update. Jim asked that the Fire Department see this proposal before implementation, because of its impact on emergency vehicles.
9. Downing Square update. Elisabeth noted her concern about making Westminster one way, because of its impact on Lowell Street. Ed noted that TAC already voted to talk to the neighbors about it. Jim added that the Police Department generally supports slowing traffic on residential streets, and would support traffic calming methods for Lowell Street, including but not limited to signage and crosswalks. Elisabeth will begin community education process.
10. Summer Street Corridor. Jeanne Leary, representing the Summer Street Neighborhood Association spoke about residents' concerns about speeding and heavy use of Summer Street as well as impact of future development. Ed recommended continuing observation, as construction of Summer Street progresses, and Symmes Hospital site construction begins. Recommendations for Symmes traffic mitigation will be evaluated over time, and are not final. Ed recommended that if they have specific things they would like looked into they should write to the BoS, who will likely refer the matter to TAC.

11. Town Day Planning. Sign up sheet was passed around. Ed will send it around by e-mail. Laura will check in with Zipcar about their bringing materials and having someone present at TAC booth. Also check for Mass. Ave. Corridor plans. There should be a heavy emphasis on educating public about plans for Mass. Ave. Ed will look for summary. Jim will draft a summary of often forgotten traffic rules.
12. Irving and Pleasant Streets. Question arose, do we need an engineering study to make a change? Ed will contact John Maher.
13. Alewife improvements. Laura talked with Bill Deignan, Transportation Improvement Coordinator for the City of Cambridge, about Alewife improvements. Cambridge's priorities for the Alewife area are:
 - Stormwater improvements around Alewife Reservation (with Arlington and Belmont)
 - Bikepath between Alewife Station and Brighton Street, Cambridge/Belmont
 - Bikepath between Alewife Station and Concord Avenue, Cambridge
 - Study of through traffic past Alewife Station. Is there something that could be added that would encourage those drivers to use public transit. They have been lobbying MPO for funds for study. Not yet successful. For example:
 - Park and Ride to Alewife at Route 128
 - Commuter rail to Alewife

Their goal with all projects is "vehicle trip reduction". Regarding our concerns about access to parking garage from Route 2, and possible dedicated right lane eastbound into Alewife station, Cambridge would support increasing access to garage, but not anything that makes it easier to drive through Cambridge. Concern would be enforcement. Right now estimated 1/3 to 1/2 of all cars turning into Alewife are cutting through to Rindge Avenue to bypass light, not using the parking lot. DO NOT want to make it easier to cut through. Ed was interested in inviting Bill to come to a future TAC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55.