

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Tuesday, May 24, 2005 7:15 PM

Committee members present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Jim McHugh, Kevin O'Brien, Ron Santosuosso, Scott Smith.

Associate Members and Visitors present: Howard Muise, John Chicarello, Rebecca Edry, Joanna Lunsford, Anne Lusk, Paolo Marinelli, Allen Reedy, Ben Thayer.

Administration

The minutes of April 26, 2005 were approved unanimously.

Multi-Use Project

Dr. Anne Lusk provided an overview of the progress of her multi-use project in Arlington, which will end on July 1, 2005. Proposed signs and stencils for the School Routes part of the project were presented. Designated walking routes are planned for the Thompson, Peirce and Ottoson Schools. Proposed sign posts and stencils were also presented for the Arlington Center bikeway crossing. Permanent informational signs are planned for both entrances to the bikeway in the Center and temporary stencils of a Minuteman walking a bicycle will be installed on the sidewalks between the bikeway entrances. Two different stencils (portraying more and less experienced road cyclists) were presented for the bikeway crossing at Alewife Station. These stencils will indicate the two cyclist routes through this area. Scott Smith agreed to finalize the Arlington Center sign artwork and to contact Jack Johnson of the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee for assistance in locating the Arlington Center signs. Elisabeth Carr-Jones agreed to assist with finalizing the Alewife stencils.

Downing Square

Elisabeth Carr-Jones distributed a draft press release for the trial modifications to Downing Square. A schedule for the trial was proposed, including the Board of Selectmen's meeting on June 6th, publicizing the information in the Arlington Advocate, the TAC web site and the Arlington List later that week, and implementation of the plan beginning the week of June 13th. Ron Santosuosso reported that the final cost of the Recycled Technologies raised crosswalk device to be placed on Park Avenue would be roughly \$6,000. Details of the trial were discussed, including installing the modifications to the Square incrementally, using collapsible plastic bollards at either end of the turning lane from Lowell to Bow Street and delineating the trial crosswalks in outlines. Elisabeth agreed to make any modifications to the press release and notify the larger group of people who had expressed interest in the project about the trial.

Mass Ave Corridor

Howard Muise delivered three copies of the VHB report from Trish Domigan on the Massachusetts Avenue Corridor project (for Scott Smith, John Sanchez and Kevin O'Brien). Kevin O'Brien reported that upon the TAC's review and approval of the project report, it will be submitted for review by Mass Highway's Project Review Committee. Mass Highway has declined an offer to tour the corridor with town officials, preferring to evaluate the project independently. Kevin also reported that the project was at the point where public meetings should soon be held. Scott Smith reported that the working group held a planning meeting recently and would be reviewing the VHB report.

Final Crosswalk Thermoplastic List

Elisabeth Carr-Jones suggested two final revisions to the 2005 list of crosswalks for

thermoplastic installation. The Committee approved the following changes: add the advance yield markings at the Town Hall crosswalk on Massachusetts Avenue to the list, and delay the crosswalk at 990 Massachusetts Avenue for another year due to its recent painting. Elisabeth agreed to inform John Sanchez of the revisions.

East Arlington Parking Study

Scott Smith introduced Joanna Lunsford and Ben Thayer, two of the Tufts Engineering School students who conducted the East Arlington parking study. The study was conducted under the direction of Scott, Jeff Maxtutis and Tufts Professor Lewis Edgers. Joanna and Ben presented their work and distributed copies of the Powerpoint slides. Their study included an inventory and survey of the parking spaces, analysis of the survey information and two levels of recommendations. The first level recommendations included: converting the side streets to (seasonal) one-sided parking, changing Mass Ave to 3-hour parking and increasing enforcement. The second level recommendations included: re-aligning parking on Mass Ave to angle parking and contracting a full-time engineer. Scott added that the working group had met on May 23rd to plan for the Public Meeting and other next steps for the project.

Crosswalk at Summer/Brattle

Scott Smith distributed a drawing illustrating the proposed crosswalks at the intersection of Summer, Brattle and Hemlock Streets. Elisabeth Carr-Jones and Ron Santosuosso assisted by describing the issues surrounding the most westerly Summer Street crosswalk proposed by Mass Highway in their original plan for the intersection, the Symmes development revisions presented by the developer as well as the TAC's recommended revisions. The crosswalk's necessity has been called into question by the approval of the TAC's recommendation to retain the existing crosswalk at the intersection. Neighbors expressed concern that trees may be removed along Summer Street to accommodate this crosswalk. Although the trees in question were removed within the preceding few days, Ron reported that the new sidewalk on the north side of Summer Street required the removal of the trees.

Town Departments

Jim McHugh reported that the relocated Jason Street bus stop and crosswalk are not being used by the neighborhood residents. He also reported that the Governor's Highway Safety Commission was funding the Town's Click It or Ticket program.

Ron Santosuosso reported that the Summer Street reconstruction schedule will be set back due to Keyspan's moving of a gas main and that construction would likely continue for another year. Ron also reported on a proposal to use Hill's Hill as a staging area during the Summer Street construction and convert it to neighborhood parking afterwards.

Kevin O'Brien reported an a concept for MBTA bus shelters to be funded by advertising. In order to facilitate such a concept, information on sidewalk widths and ridership for specific bus stops would need to be gathered. However, planning for the shelters should be considered as part of the Mass Ave Corridor project. Kevin reported that depending on what happens with the Federal transportation reauthorization bill, substantial Federal funds may be available for the Mass Ave Corridor project. Kevin also distributed a reworked draft of the Symmes Traffic Mitigation Measures, indicating that an appendix would be created if these measures are not included in the Special Permit.

Dallin School

Elisabeth Carr-Jones, John Chicarello and Allen Reedy presented an update on the progress of the Dallin working group. They reported that the Dallin PTO and the Arlington School

Committee had joined the Permanent Town Building Committee in voting support of the working group's efforts and that Diane Seigel (another member of the working group) had canvassed the neighborhood regarding the proposed safety modifications. A draft list of final recommendations of the working group was distributed and discussed. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the recommendations with one modification.

Stop Signs at Philips/Webster

Scott Smith distributed a preliminary report on the intersection of Philips and Webster Streets. The Committee unanimously voted to approve the proposed recommendation: to install stop signs facing Webster Street. Scott agreed to draft a short final report for presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

Membership/Staffing

Ralph Elwell reported that he, Jack Hurd and Ed Starr had conducted interviews for the open Member at Large position on the Committee and that the new TAC Member would be presented to the Board of Selectmen for appointment before the Committee's June meeting. Ralph added that the interview process had also produced new Associate Members for the Committee.

Crosswalk at Mystic/Winslow

Scott Smith and Jim McHugh presented preliminary thoughts on the installation of a crosswalk on Mystic Street at Winslow Street (a referral from the Board of Selectmen). The Committee discussed the risks of encouraging pedestrians to cross at this intersection and agreed to discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

Stop Sign at Pleasant Street/Rt. 2

Kevin O'Brien presented information on the replacement of the YIELD sign on the off-ramp to Rt. 2 at Pleasant Street with a STOP sign. Committee members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of a STOP sign. Since visibility for motorists exiting the ramp is sufficient for YIELD control, the primary disadvantage would be that a STOP sign would likely have poor compliance. However, the primary advantage would be that STOP sign control might improve the environment for pedestrians. Since the intersection is under the jurisdiction of Mass Highway, the Committee agreed to pass the concerns of the neighbors on to the District 4 Engineering Department. Kevin O'Brien agreed to draft a letter on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM.

Handouts:

Meeting Agenda Packet including: Agenda, Draft Action List, and information for the Crosswalk at Summer/Brattle and Stop Signs at Philips/Webster - from Scott Smith

Information package for Multi Use project - from Anne Lusk

Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2005, draft Downing Square Trial press release and Working Group Recommendations for the Dallin School - from Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Draft of the Symmes Traffic Mitigation Measures - from Kevin O'Brien

East Arlington Parking Study report - from Joanna Lunsford and Ben Thayer