

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 9/27/2005, 7:15PM, Town Hall Annex 2nd Floor Conference Room

Members present: Joe Cahill, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Jeff Maxtutis, Kevin O'Brien, Mike Rademacher, John Sanchez, Scott Smith, Ed Starr

Associates: Guillermo Bahamon, Erik Moore, Howard Muise

1. The minutes of August 30, 2005 were unanimously approved.
2. Status of Voted Recommendations

John Sanchez reported that DPW would have the area around Russell Street paved by the end of this year. They will start doing painted crosswalks in-house. Pedestrian signs for Summer and Victoria have not arrived yet.

3. Mass. Ave. Corridor

Kevin O'Brien reported that the current plan is to divide the project into three segments:

- a. Cambridge Line to Franklin Street
- b. Franklin to Route 60
- c. Route 60 to Mill Street

Since Mass/Route 60 is a high crash location, there may be other sources of funds available for segment (b). This project would mainly involve signal improvements. Segment (c) would be done last, and might be extended as far as Highland Avenue. He also noted that Mass Highway is changing the Highway Design manual to be more context sensitive; revisions are due out in a few months. Scott Smith noted that the TAC has received a letter of support from the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC). The Town expects to respond to the requests in Mass Highway's letter within the next two weeks.

4. Department News

John Sanchez indicated that completion of the Summer Street project is likely to be delayed until Spring 2007. However, the segment between the Lexington line and Park Avenue should be repaved this fall.

Kevin O'Brien reported that the following development were planned

- A 40B project, being discussed at this evening's Zoning Board of Appeals meeting
- The Mirak parcel at Summer/Cutter Hill – 19 apartments

Kevin O'Brien departed and Erik Moore arrived.

5. Fisher / Fayette

There was a request for a stop sign at the intersection of Fisher and Fayette. Joe Cahill reported that the intersection has good visibility, little traffic, and no crash history. He recommended no action. The recommendation was unanimously approved.

6. Mass Ave/ Lockeland

Ed Starr reported that this request, to improve the merge between Lockeland and Highland, came from Jim Marzilli. Joe Cahill noted that there was only about 90' taper. He and Scott Smith suggested some options for consideration:

- Continue the two lanes westbound with the left lane ending at a left turn only lane at Highland (Issue: what about the left turn lane into Stop & Shop from Mass. Ave eastbound)
- Arrange the westbound approach to Mass Ave and Lockeland as a left turn only lane and a single through lane.
- Taper Mass Ave to a single westbound lane just west of the intersection with Mill Street. This provides opportunities for left turn pockets at Bartlett and the other cross streets, as well as an opportunity to shorten the pedestrian crossings in the area.

It was generally agreed that traffic counts were needed in the area. This would include machine counts in front of the High School, as well as manual turning movement counts at Lockeland, the Stop & Shop driveway, and Highland.

Joe Cahill departed.

7. Mass. Ave. / Library Way.

Mike Rademacher presented recommendations that included bumpouts, widening the crosswalk, advance yield markings, hedge trimming and pedestrian signs. Scott Smith recommended the addition of a no parking here-to-corner sign on the eastbound Mass Ave, 20-feet west of Library Way. Elisabeth Carr-Jones recommended adding a crosswalk across Library Way itself. After some discussion, it was agreed that the following recommendations would require more thought

- Bumpouts (drainage issues)
- Signage for the crosswalks (possibly too hard for motorists to see)
- Advance yield lines (possibly too confusing when not at a mid-block crossing)

Scott Smith moved that a two phase approach be adopted. Phase I would occur immediately, while Phase II would require some design work.

Phase I to include

- Widen crosswalk markings to current standards (12-feet)
- Trim hedges at library side of crosswalk (east side of library driveway)
- Maintain crosswalk bollard.
- Trim/remove low hedges in traffic island (east of the crosswalk)
- Trim low tree limbs in traffic island that impair sightlines
- Add crosswalk across Library Way at its intersection with Mass. Ave.
- Add no-parking here to corner sign on Mass Ave eastbound, 20' west of Library Way (on existing pole)

Phase II to include

- Design, costing and implementation of bumpouts on both sides. The Town Engineer should prepare a design.
- Crosswalk identification signs
- Advance yield lines
- Advance crosswalk warning signs.

The motion was unanimously approved.

8. Crosswalk on Mass Ave west of Park Avenue (Sunrise Assisted Living)

Ed Starr reported that although current pedestrian volumes are low, many of these pedestrians have unique needs (elderly, disabled). A crosswalk here would also complete an existing pattern of crosswalks spaced roughly every 300' in this business district. Finally, he noted that motorist speeds are low in the area, and there would only be a reduction of two or three parking spaces. The recommendation to install a crosswalk was unanimously approved.

9. Hawthorne / Cedar

This was in response to a neighborhood resident's request for additional stop sign control. Jeff Maxtutis reported that this is an unsignalized 5-way intersection with non-apparent right of way. Major movements are Cedar Avenue northbound and Fountain Road southbound. The only existing stop sign is on the westbound Hawthorne approach to the intersection.

Recommendations were to

- Add a stop sign to the Hawthorne Avenue eastbound minor approach.
- Work with DPW and the neighborhood to identify alternate geometric configurations that will reduce the expansive pavement width at this intersection.

Guillermo Bahamon noted that the area is quiet, and may need nothing.

The recommendations were unanimously approved.

9. Appleton / Paul Revere

This is in response to a resident complaint about difficult visibility. Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported that there are high traffic volumes, but only one reported crash in the last three years. She had also done a peak hour turning count. We discussed several options. John Sanchez questioned how much energy should be spent on this given its lack of crash history.

10. Wright/Huntington/Berkeley

Guillermo Bahamon reported that this is a private way that is planned to be paved. Residents are apprehensive about it becoming a cut-through route. However, the paving will not occur this year, and Guillermo reported that the neighbors are not yet clear on what they want. We agreed to postpone action.

11. Highland Avenue

Erik Moore reported that Highland Avenue near Mass. Ave. is not wide enough for parking on both sides and two lanes of traffic. Given the moderate traffic volumes, conflicts often occur. There are some parking restrictions near Mass. Ave., and only a few violations were observed. A possible action might be to restrict parking on one side.

12. Measurements

Ed Starr presented the proposed list of measurement locations.

13. Downing Square

Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported that the trial is scheduled to be re-installed this week, including the raised crosswalk. Changes are to include a less aggressive curb extension at Lowell and Westminster. The issue of Park Avenue parking is still unresolved. Ed Starr has submitted a capital planning request.

14. Dallin School

Jeff Maxtutis recently visited the school, and reported that the curb and drop-off areas are in place. John Sanchez said that sidewalks would not be done until late Fall. The opening of the school is scheduled for January 2006. A remaining issue is that of George Street, a private way.

15. Thorndike Field

Howard Muise had visited on Saturday 9/24, and reported that there was only a small amount of overflow onto the driveway and Margaret Street. He noted that striping the parking bays could lead to more efficient parking. We agreed to add this to the recommendations.

Erik Moore and Guillermo Bahamon departed.

16. Crosswalk inventory and other business

John Sanchez noted that it should be possible to get the inventory of crosswalks into Arcview. There was general agreement that this would be a good idea. Ed Starr briefly noted that Town Day and the Walkable Communities workshops went well.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Handouts:

Agenda package with agenda, project list, rotation list, outstanding actions, suggestions for traffic measurements (Fall 2005), letter of support from the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee for the Mass Ave corridor project, and crosswalk guidelines – from Ed Starr

Minutes from August 2005 – from Scott Smith

Recommendations for Fisher/Fayette, and Mass Ave/ Lockeland notes – from Joe Cahill

Recommendations for Library Way – from Mike Rademacher

Recommendations for crosswalk at Sunrise Assisted Living – from Ed Starr

Recommendations at Cedar Ave./Hawthorne St./Fountain Road – from Jeff Maxtutis

Notes on Appleton St./Paul Revere Rd./Florence Avenue – from Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Downing Square diagram – from Elisabeth Carr-Jones.