

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

Tuesday January 27, 2004 7:15 PM

Committee members present: Ralph Elwell, Larry Englisher, Lt. Jim McHugh, Michael Rademacher, Ed Starr, John Sanchez, Kevin O'Brien (excused himself from meeting early)

Others: Gary Pigg.

**1. Minutes from 12/16/03**

The minutes of this meeting were approved unanimously.

**2. Discussion of Transportation Impact of Symmes Plans**

Elisabeth Carr-Jones was in attendance of a special meeting of the Symmes Committee and unable to attend the TAC meeting and report on recent activity relating to the Symmes Development project.

Ed Starr stated that common concerns of local residents include excessive use of Woodside Lane to access Mystic Street once development is complete.

Larry Englisher stated that the MBTA will consider continuing service to the Symmes site during and after construction of the project.

**3. East Arlington Massachusetts Avenue Streetscape Request for Proposal (RFP)**

Kevin O'Brien distributed draft copies of the RFP for the East Arlington Massachusetts Avenue Streetscape Project. It was requested that TAC members review and make comments on the proposal before it is advertised. It is anticipated that the RFP will be advertised in February.

**4. Hutchinson Update**

Larry Englisher presented a one-page draft letter to the BOS outlining recommendations for Hutchinson Road. Several comments were made and agreed upon by the committee:

- Recommendations Section
  - o First recommendation, change "enforcement of the speed limit" to "traffic enforcement".
  - o Text referencing stop signs in the last recommendation to be removed
  - o Third recommendation (gutter line feasibility) to be moved out of recommendation section and into the body of the letter.

- The text listed under “preliminary solution” to be removed from the one page summary. This information can be included in the complete package provided to the BOS.
- Footnote to be removed.
- It was suggested that signage to warn motorists of the presence of pedestrians in the area might be an improvement. John Sanchez stated he would investigate possible signage for the area.

Vegetation along the Winchester Country Club side of the road was discussed. It was suggested at the last TAC meeting that the BOS send a letter to the Club requesting they trim back trees and shrubs which encroach upon the road, and residents agreed to identify individual trees. It was decided at this meeting that the letter should not be sent until particular trees were identified which need trimming, and it was discussed whether the BoS was the right body to send such a letter. John Sanchez indicated from a reading of the bylaws that the Arlington does not include language requiring property owners to maintain vegetation that impacts Town roads. It was previously thought that such language existed and could be referenced in the letter to the Club.

## **5. Right Turn On Red**

Scott Smith has created draft guidelines outlining criteria for the presence or elimination of No Turn on Red signs. It was stated by all that it was an excellent starting point but it was stressed that this is an important issue and something which will require significant effort to address correctly.

## **6. Downing Square**

Ed Starr and Elizabeth Carr-Jones have met with local resident to begin discussions for improvements to the intersection. Elisabeth has agreed to lead the working group assigned to task. The group will include, among others, TAC members Mike Rademacher and Ralph Elwell.

It was stated that the intersection is complicated and the development of plans for improvement will take significant time and effort.

Ed Starr stated that the neighboring Lowell Street development, as part of their agreement with the planning board, might have agreed to assist financially with improvements to the intersection.

## **7. Crosswalk Working Group**

Larry Englisher summarized the efforts of the working group subsequent to the last TAC meeting. He stated that the group is leaning toward a corridor approach for identifying future use of thermoplastic at crosswalks (i.e. all Massachusetts Avenue or Pleasant Street crosswalks would be completed as a group). He stated that the group feels this approach would make it easier to keep track of crosswalk improvements and would simplify the scheduling of maintenance. All members agreed which this approach.

Larry stated that the group was developing a priority list of ten crosswalks for the use of thermoplastic. John Sanchez stated that the amount of money budgeted for the thermoplastic was based on a linear foot amount and not a per crosswalk basis. The overall linear feet of crosswalk material will need to be factor into the recommendations.

Larry also stated that the group debated the proper width for crosswalks. The working group had discussed making the crosswalk width related to the crosswalk length. Longer crosswalk would be wider up to 12'. TAC members felt that a 10' width would be adequate.

The working group is developing recommendations for thermoplastic application out to the year 2005. At that time additional recommendations will need to be developed.

## **8. Discussion re Warrant Articles**

Ed Starr stated that Peter Szerlag has asked for support on two warrant articles regarding a traffic light at the Robbins Library and the construction of a sidewalk on the bridge at Park Avenue. Members present agreed that it is not in the best interest of the TAC to endorse issues that were originated outside the Board of Selectmen.

## **9. Tufts University Opportunity**

Ed Starr presented an idea for discussion. He has learned that Tufts University Civil Engineering students are available for group project that relate to traffic engineering. He suggested that the TAC think about projects in the Town that might benefit from study by the students. Several projects were identified as possible candidates:

- a. Priority bus lanes for Alewife Station.
- b. Engineering a sidewalk on Park Street Bridge.
- c. Improving the bike path through the center of Town.

## **10. DPW Update**

John Sanchez reported that the bids for the Summer Street Reconstruction Project were scheduled to be opened today. He had not yet heard which contractor was the lowest bidder.

## **11. Traffic Division Update**

Lt. Jim McHugh stated that some new enforcement equipment is being investigated although resources are becoming tight within the division.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.**

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## **MEETING HANDOUTS**

Agenda, Minutes of 12/16/03, Discussion of Criteria for Allowing Right Turn on Red, Discussion of Support for Peter Szerlag Warrant Articles, Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups, Status of Actions on TAC Issues, Discussion of Tufts University Student Project, and BOS approval of TAC Bylaws; Gray Street/Quincy Street/Fountain Road recommendations; Rawson Road/Broadway, Rawson Road/Warren Intersection Recommendations – from Ed Starr