

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

Tuesday, August 24, 2004 7:15 PM

Committee members present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Larry Englisher, Jeff Maxtutis, Lt. Jim McHugh, Kevin O'Brien, John Sanchez, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, David Walkinshaw

Others present: Sam Offei-Addo, Charlie Kalauskas, Paul Morrison, Joe Curro, Terry Dash, Erik Moore.

1. The minutes of 7/27/2004 and 8/9/2004 were approved unanimously.

John Sanchez and Larry Englisher arrived

2. Mass. Ave. / Route 60

Sam Offei-Addo of BSC presented results of a simulation of Mass Ave and Route 60. Traffic volumes used were derived from counts taken in 1999 and 2004. The following scenarios were presented:

- A. Optimize existing signal timings without coordination. This has minimal cost to implement, and results in some reduction in vehicle delay. However, the reduction in delay would be minimal. The signal timings are constrained by the time required for pedestrians to cross the roadway.
- B. Optimize timings and provide coordination with other nearby signalized intersections. This has somewhat higher cost, but can reduce vehicle stops. It imposes longer queues on the adjacent signals.
- C. Exclusive pedestrian phase. This results in both longer vehicle and pedestrian delays.
- D. Shared right/thru lanes on Route 60, with concurrent pedestrian phasing. This reduces the queues on Route 60, but may lead to increased vehicle/pedestrian conflicts. There may be left turn conflicts with the Cambridge Savings Bank drive-thru.
- E. Combination of C and D, results in increased vehicle and pedestrian delays.
- F. Extend the left turn lane on the Mystic Street approach to Mass. Ave. This increases storage length, but involves construction and reduces the amount of landscaped median.

3. Symmes

Paul Morrison explained that the neighbors will be bringing a warrant article to Town Meeting that requests a comprehensive transportation study of the Symmes area including pedestrian issues. He stated that their confidence in Howard/Stein-Hudson (HSH) is undermined because they have missed or ignored significant issues including the impact of school redistricting and the 25% capture rate issue.

The additional study would be conducted during the next year or so, and that is would be supervised by the TAC rather than the Arlington Redevelopment Board (ARB). Erik Moore said that the study would address the neighbors concerns.

Elisabeth Carr-Jones noted that for smaller projects, TAC has taken on the peer review role. Scott Smith noted that as volunteers, the members of TAC are constrained in the amount of time they could put into peer review activities. He suggested the Town would be better served by hiring a peer review consultant, especially given the compressed timeframe.

Terry Dash asked whether the developer was constrained in what would be included, she noted the exclusion of the Mystic / Summer intersection.

There will be a meeting at Terry Dash's home on Wednesday 8/25. Scott Smith will attend.

4. Cedar / Waverly, Cedar-Renfrew and Hillside-Renfrew

Jeff Maxtutis discussed the proposed changes with Ron Santosuosso, and next wishes to speak with the residents who requested the changes. We are clear that a stop sign is warranted at Hillside and Renfrew. We expect this will be ready for a vote next month.

5. Downing Square

Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported that the Working Group had met earlier that month and that the data collection for the area around Downing Square was now complete. The Group is preparing a presentation for the September TAC meeting.

6. Right-Turn on Red (RTOR)

David Walkinshaw presented a worksheet that presented a number of criteria (including visibility, pedestrian volume, possibility of encouraging added cut-through traffic) for evaluating an intersection approach.

7. Town Day Planning

We have a reservation for a town day table. Elisabeth Carr-Jones is talking with Walking in Arlington about which table should have the Arlington High School crosswalk device. Scott Smith noted that he has requested schedules from the MBTA. Elisabeth Carr-Jones and Scott Smith are preparing updated crash maps. There was some discussion of bringing a laptop to run the Mass. Ave /Route 60 simulation.

8. East Arlington Parking Study

Scott Smith reported that he spoke with the Town Manager about parking policies in Brookline and Winchester. The working group met in August. Jeff Maxtutis communicated with Tufts, but it does not look promising. We may need to use some of our remaining funds to hire people to do data collection.

9. Department News

John Sanchez reported that line painting will be finished this week. He raised the issue of the fog line on Park Avenue. Scott Smith stated that the idea was to paint the stripe as an ~8-foot parking lane, so that Park Avenue would clearly have one 12-15 foot travel lane in each direction. Committee members liked the idea but noted that more thought would be needed in places where the street is wider than 46 feet or narrower than 40 feet. Therefore, the consensus was to wait on action until the spring.

Lt. McHugh noted that the installation of new signal heads at Summer St and Park Ave. Extension has been referred to Mass Highway. There will be a crosswalk by McClennen Field. He noted that a new state law effective in early August has increased the fine for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a marked crosswalk to \$200, and that the 5-foot criterion has been raised to 10 feet. Further, no warnings are to be given. More details are available on the Police Department web site.

Kevin O'Brien will talk to ARB on Monday about TAC selection of consultant for the Symmes peer review. A subcommittee was appointed to assist in the peer review. Volunteers for this subcommittee included Kevin O'Brien, Jeff Maxtutis, Ed Starr, John Sanchez, Elisabeth Carr-Jones and Scott Smith.

Ed Starr noted that Larry Englisher and David Walkinshaw would be leaving TAC after this meeting. Committee members thanked Larry and David for their fine service

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM

Handouts:

Agenda – from Ed Starr

Minutes from 7/2004 and 8/9/2004 – from Scott Smith

Mass Ave/Route 60 Traffic Analysis – from BSC

RTOR Worksheet – from David Walkinshaw