

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

Wednesday, November 20, 2002 7:15 PM

Committee members present: Rich Bento, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Larry Englisher, Lt. Jim McHugh, Michael Rademacher, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, David Walkinshaw

Others present: Paul Campbell, Oakes Plimpton, Paolo Marinelli, Mark Miller

Administrative Items

The minutes of 10/16 were approved unanimously.

Starting on 1/28/2003, we agreed that meetings in 2003 would be on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

David Walkinshaw arrived at 7:20 PM.

Crash Analysis

Paul Campbell presented partial findings from the crash analysis. The plan is to group streets into three categories (over 10000 vehicles/day, 3000 – 10000 vehicles / day, and under 3000 vehicles per day). Counts by street will then be presented for each category. Larry Englisher asked about the ability to obtain traffic volumes so that crash rates could be determined. However, only limited traffic volume information is available, on the more heavily traveled streets.

Paul will be with us until 12/20/2002. Rich Bento reported there is one student who will be interviewed for possible co-op service this spring. Ed Starr reported that funding should be in place for a spring term co-op student.

Massachusetts Avenue Corridor

Scott Smith reported on the process thus far. There have been three small group meetings in Fox Library this summer and fall. At the last meeting, the group agreed that a larger meeting is in order. Scott is working with George Laite to organize a meeting of the East Arlington Good Neighbor Committee, possibly on December 4th. Ralph Elwell suggested that other invitees to this meeting would include Town Meeting members from East Arlington, Anne Paulsen, Jim Marzilli, members of the Board of Selectmen, and the Town Manager. We agreed that obtaining business community input would most likely require a second meeting.

Route 16 Intersection

Rich Bento reported that there will be a meeting with Cambridge to discuss plans for the intersection, but that Cambridge wanted the meeting limited to public officials. The meeting will be on Friday morning (11/22).

Ideas for the Mass. Ave Corridor

Scott Smith reviewed a draft handout for the 12/4 meeting. Numerous comments were received from TAC members, and Scott will incorporate them into a revised handout, to be distributed to TAC via e-mail.

Pace Cars

Ralph Elwell presented materials on the pace car program. This is an initiative whereby a number of people take the following pledge:

"Realizing that my driving affects the livability of other people's neighborhoods, just as other people's driving affects my neighborhood, I hereby pledge to:

1. Drive within the speed limit on Arlington streets.
2. Stop to let pedestrians cross and be courteous to bicyclists and others.
3. Display my Pace Car Sticker and put something on or in my car that's designed to make others laugh
4. Be a courteous and aware pedestrian when I am walking.
5. Be a courteous and aware cyclist when I am biking.
6. Have fun while caring for others "

By fulfilling this pledge, they set an example that also slows the speed of other motorists. Ralph Elwell reported that the Advocate is ready to launch a campaign. Groups in town that could take the pledge include the Selectmen, and all Town employees. Other channels include the schools and police. TAC members present signed the pledge. Rich Bento indicated that the needed bumper stickers could be funded out of the DPW budget, and that he would support DPW employees taking the pledge.

TAC members voted unanimously to bring this proposal forward to the Board of Selectmen.

Jason / Spring Intersection

Rich Bento and Paul Campbell presented a plan for the Jason / Spring intersection that includes a traffic island. The concept of an island was not in the original proposal to the Board of Selectmen, but neighbors apparently like it. Some neighbors do not like the yellow lines that were voted by the Board of Selectmen. David Walkinshaw questioned whether we should change a plan as voted by the B.O.S. just because some area residents don't like it. Ralph Elwell recommended that we implement the B.O.S. vote before implementing the island. Scott Smith asked whether the island would create confusion for drivers turning left from Jason to Pleasant View, but also noted that the island would aid pedestrians crossing the intersection. Rich Bento noted that we are past painting season, so it may not be possible to do anything further until spring, which would include the painting needed for the crosswalk.

Ed Starr also presented a draft letter to the B.O.S. explaining the Jason / Spring changes, and recommending that a public meeting be postponed until the impact of the changes has been assessed. We agreed that the letter should be revised to indicate that the Jason / Spring changes are still in progress.

Walk/ Bike Conference

Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported on the recent Massachusetts Walking/Bicycling Conference, held in Worcester. Arlington was mentioned several times, in the context of Safe Routes to School and the pedestrian warning signs.

Town Transportation News

Given that Rich Bento is retiring at the end of this month, TAC members presented a card to him, and thanked him for his contributions to TAC and the Town.

Jim McHugh reported that the measurement program is ahead of schedule. He and Ed Starr reported on a set of classification counts done on Pleasant Street (separating trucks and cars). These counts were cross-checked with manual counts performed by area residents. It appears that while the automatic classifications are not accurate over short intervals (15 minute blocks), they were fairly accurate for a cumulative 2 hour time period where traffic levels were moderate.

Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported that since her last Symmes report, two presentations on alternate site plans have been made. She handed out sketches of several alternatives that are now under consideration.

Rich Bento presented a preliminary plan for alternate-side Russell Street parking. He expects representatives from Recycled Traffic Products to be present at the next TAC meeting to describe commercially available rubber speed humps and tables.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Handouts:

Agenda, and draft letter re: Jason Street – from Ed Starr

Minutes from October 16, 2002; and list of proposed actions for Mass. Ave. corridor – from Scott Smith

Accident Analysis partial results – from Paul Campbell

Pace Car handout – from Ralph Elwell

Walk Bike Conference notes, and Symmes Hospital future vision – from Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Neighborhood Traffic Control, and Jason/Spring/Pleasant View diagram – from Rich Bento