

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Monday, July 30, 2001
7:30 PM

Present: Richard Bento (arrived at 7:45 PM), Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Alan McClennen (departed at 7:55 PM), David McKenna (Police Department), Scott Smith, Ed Starr.

Larry Englisher, Michael Rademacher and David Walkinshaw were on vacation.

Minutes of 6/11/01 meeting

The minutes were approved unanimously. Scott will forward them to Bob Sprague (electronic copy) and Robbins Library (paper copy)

News items

Ed Starr handed out the charge for the Lexington Traffic Safety committee that was formed in 1986.

Alan McClennen discussed the recent regional (Cambridge) truck study. Of concern to Arlington is the desire to designate Broadway in Somerville and Arlington as a truck route. Arlington, through a unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen on 6/25/01, does not concur with this recommendation.

Regular meeting time

After some discussion, we settled on the third Thursday of each month as a reasonable meeting time for our committee. However, since Ed will be away on 8/16, we set the August meeting for 8/30. We also settled on a 7:30 PM meeting time. Therefore, future meetings are now tentatively scheduled for

August 30
September 20
October 18
November 15
December 20

The preferred location will be one of the meeting rooms in the Town Hall Annex.

Public Meetings

We discussed dates for the next public meetings, and settled on the following proposed dates:

- ? Thursday 9/13 (since the last public meeting was on Tuesday, avoid Tuesday)
- ? Saturday 9/29, in the morning (some people expressed a desire for a Saturday, rather than evening, meeting)

Ed will propose these dates to Louis Berger, and will reserve Town Hall. If it turns out the Saturday meeting is not feasible, an alternate date will be Wednesday 10/3.

Elisabeth summarized comments about the 7/17 meeting. The numbers of commentors were roughly equal between the East Arlington, Arlington Center and Arlington Heights.

Ed will ask Louis Berger to send their draft notes from the 7/17 meeting to the next TAC meeting. We will then review them, and fill in details based on our local knowledge.

At the next public meeting, we recommend the following process improvements:

- ? A sign-in sheet for attendees
- ? A one page handout with the meeting agenda, contact information, and information about the TAC.

Reports on “hot spots”

David McKenna presented a memo from Fred Ryan on “hot spots” and accident data. Some accident data (over a 10 year period) was also presented. Of the top ten locations, five involve Mass. Ave.

Rich Bento mentioned that the Town was negotiating with Louis Berger for a mini-corridor study of Mass. Ave. in East Arlington. He noted that a median strip study was done in the 1980’s.

Scott volunteered to chair a working group to look at the raw crash statistics. David McKenna indicated that a reasonable first step would be contact Fred Ryan about access to the Police Department computer. We should also speak with Paolo Marinelli, who has done some research on pedestrian safety. Richard suggested the use of a standard reporting template, and volunteered to obtain these criteria. The data, fortunately, is computerized.

Process for operation of the TAC

Ed presented some slides on possible goals and process for the committee. Comments included the following:

Elisabeth: Safety must be one of the goals. She views the tasks as to organize, prioritize and schedule. We also need to be involved in projects, such as school renovations, at an early stage. For example, we could review traffic studies that are submitted to the

Redevelopment Board. She also noted that if any subcommittees are making decisions, they are subject to the requirements of the Open Meeting law.

Scott: Our goals should be safety and mobility. Under each of those headings, we can then address the four major modes in town: motor vehicle, walking, public transit and bicycle.

Richard: We need to be clear that this committee is not the town traffic engineer. One project that is nearing design completion is the Summer Street reconstruction. We could have the consultants meet with the TAC to present the reconstruction plan. We agreed that this would be a good idea, and asked if it could be scheduled for the next meeting on 8/30.

Reports

Survey Working Group:

Elisabeth will send copies of draft surveys via e-mail. The desire is to have a survey out by Town Day, where Walking in Arlington, the Bicycle Advisory Committee and Vision 2020 will all have tables. Another possibility is publication in the Advocate. Ralph will follow up on this. Elisabeth indicated that the survey committee would meet and would circulate a proposed survey to the TAC via e-mail by mid-August.

Symmes Advisory Committee:

Elisabeth also reported on the Symmes Advisory committee. She had received a note from Director Ryan expressing a concern about expected traffic volumes, given the current design of the access road intersection with Summer Street. Scott suggested a possible use as office space, because there is enough land to permit all-day parking. Ed noted that the back way down Woodside Lane (residential) might be of concern. Richard noted that the Summer Street redesign anticipates higher-than-current traffic volumes on the access road to the parcel.

The meeting adjourned at 10 PM.

MEETING HANDOUTS

Agenda – from Ed Starr

Minutes from 6/11/01 meeting – from Scott Smith

Final Recommendations of the Committee on Regional Truck Issues – from Alan McClennen

Hot Spots Memo – from Fred Ryan via David McKenna

Compilation of e-mail messages from citizens on transportation issues – from Ed Starr

Distilled List from Public Comments (7/17 public meeting) – from Ed Starr
Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee, Tasks and Processes Draft – from Ed
Starr