

Town of Acton , Massachusetts Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Thursday, March 29, 2018
Room 121, Acton Town Hall

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MEETING MINUTES

Present: Jim Citro, Jim Yarin, Bengt Muten, Franny Osman
Visitor: Luke Evans

Citizens' Concerns

Citizen's Concern from Luke Evans about bike lanes in South Acton at traffic light:

If a car misses the green arrow when turning left onto School St. from Main St., and waits to turn left, a bike on the right in the designated bike lane could be hit by a car passing the waiting car. i.e. Southbound waiting cars are passed on the right by cars that end up being in bike lane.

Suggested solution:

--Don't stop and start the striped dedicated bike lane several times.

--Better to have one shared lane from Central, through the intersection with School Street, marked with the shared lane symbol (see what Cambridge does), until the crosswalk at the bridge.

--Please investigate the painted signage used in Cambridge and Somerville for shared lanes.

Jim moves that we share this suggestion with Engineering.

Franny seconds.

Unanimous yes.

Citizen's Concern from Franny Osman about medical transportation:

Franny has been hearing from several people that they have trouble getting to and from medical visits, particularly longer distance. TAC will help Franny and the Minuteman Regional Coordinating Council (which she and Doug Halley co-chair) host a Medical Transportation forum such as the Neponset Valley Transportation Management Association (TMA) held, and TAC will review what other regions have found for solutions.

Franny will present at MassDOT's Innovation and Mobility Conference on April 11 at DCU Center, Worcester.

Citizen's Concern from Franny Osman about Rail Shuttle:

Vans may leave too quickly after trains arrive and aren't labeled clearly. New riders have reported missing them or not knowing that it was the Rail Shuttle because there is no sign on them indicating that (only the Transaction Corporate Shuttles signage).

Franny pointed out that the process is that complaints should go to Acton's Transportation Coordinator (Doug Halley, dhalley@acton-ma.gov) and CrossTown Connect Executive Director Scott Zadakis (szadakis@transactionassoc.com), so Franny said she would also share this concern with them.

Review of Minutes

Franny moves that we approve the minutes of Jan. 25, 2018 minutes.

Jim Yarin seconds.

Unanimous approval.

Jim Yarin asks if CrossTown Connect is a public entity with Open Meeting requirements or not. Answer to be researched.

CrossTown Connect

TAC suggests there be good publicity on the new early morning rail shuttle route, with material going to all the housing along the route.

Avalon has a management company that should tell the residents.

TAC would like to look at the scheduling to see if the CrossActon Transit fixed route (CAT) schedule could meet more trains and also is not hopeful about the early schedule of the N. Acton Rail Shuttle attracting enough riders.

Communications about Transportation Data

Jim Y moves that in order for TAC to do its job better, we should plan to formalize receiving:

- monthly reports on ridership
- monthly reports from the police on accidents
- list of new commercial development applications, or any plans that have a strong parking/transportation component. (We don't need the plans, just an email giving us a heads-up.)

TAC will ask Steve Ledoux how to arrange this.

Franny will ask Doug Halley to send the ridership including CrossActon Transit (CAT) bus, to TAC.

Jim C seconds.

Unanimous approval.

Acton Transportation Map

At the next meeting, Jim Y will give an update on it.

Bicycling

Jim Y followed up with Kristen Guichard about the idea of having more nodes for rental, in the new rental trail, but without the requisite number of bikes per node. They don't do that as they say it's inefficient.

Jim Y's neighbor Steve Long, and Jim Snyder-Grant, would like to meet with TAC about bike issues. Jim Y suggests Luke Evans joins the discussion, too. Jim Y would like to suggest that they form a committee.

Rail Paths

Official opening of Phase II Acton Bruce Freeman Rail Trail is April 3. Ribbon cutting is in May.

South Acton Station

TAC has ideas about solutions for the dropoff at the south side of the train station. We would like to meet with the engineer and others to share these ideas and present our proposed solutions with the Board of Selectmen.

Adjourned 9:20 pm.