

# MINUTES

## Town of Acton Transportation Advisory Committee

Wed. Jan. 29, 2014  
Room 121, Town Hall  
730 pm

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### MEETING MINUTES

7:47 started meeting

Attending: Franny Osman, chair  
Jim Yarin  
Jim Citro  
Mike Gowing (Selectman liaison)

**Citizens Concerns-** none

**Minutes-** Members will review minutes from 2013 Franny will mail out (four meetings' notes available).

Franny asked Mike G. if it makes a difference for us to turn in past years' unrecorded (with Clerk) minutes, and he said yes. Another committee that was behind spent a whole meeting going through old minutes.

**MinuteVan Update**

Rail Shuttle is fully booked. Mike Gowing has idea of letting van pick up flag stops.

\_\_Ask Bobi at Transaction to send TAC the reports each month.

Jim Y is a rider and observes, from talking to people, is that the parking lot gets full at 6:50 am. To get a 7:08 train to Boston. People are idling. Aggravating and wasteful.

Q- More spots after train fix? A (from Mike G)- Just a few, from re-stripping. Nose in parking? But problem when people race home.

Idea raised of collecting data on where train riders come from, do we need more routes from across town. Discussion of parking at Littleton, how full it is getting, that express trains will start going to Littleton as well as Acton. But not til train track improvement is done.

Dial-a-Ride: "full" is still only 11 to 15 riders. But advantage is that it is being dispatched along with other vans through CrossTown Connect.

Freedom Taxi is a new taxi in town.  
There is another, whose name we don't recall.

### **Update CrossTown Connect**

CrossTown Connect reviewed. New office in Maynard Clock Tower Place.

### **Update Lowell Regional Transit Authority**

Lowell Regional Transit Authority Board- Mike is our rep and Franny was just invited to be the Labor/Rider . Mike is vice chair of Minuteman Advisory Group for Interlocal Coordination, MAGIC ... vice chair of Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (advisory to Metropolitan Planning Org., RTAC).

### **Recent Grants**

Easter Seals grant helping us form a Regional Coordinating Council, or RCC ... we explained what Statewide Coordinating Council on Community Transportation, SCCCT and RCC are.

MRTAP –Mass. Rural Transit Assistance Program, Franny asked Friends of the Council on Aging to host an application for funds to make short video spots and brochures, in multiple languages, to explain the present senior transit dispatch setup, and we got the grant and Franny is working on it.

We talked about good copy for the brochures. Jim Yarin suggested something welcoming at the top, not dry. In Italics is Franny's try:

*YOU CAN GET AROUND TOWN*

*or*  
*GO WHERE YOU WANT TO GO*

## **Transportation for Seniors and Others Who Need Rides**

### **Same Vans**

Senior Vans  
Road Runner Vans  
MinuteVan Dial-a-Ride

### **Same Drivers**

### **Same Service area**

Acton and neighboring towns

### **Single Dispatch**

### **New Name:**

**CrossTown Connect**

**Request Rides, Telephone  
(978) 844-6809**

**or online ride request Website**

**[www.minutevan.net](http://www.minutevan.net)**

**same-day etc.**

### **Other transportation in town:**

- taxi**
- MART shuttle Littleton to hospitals**
- LRTA hospital info**
- RIDE from Concord**
- Yankee Bus Line**

## **-Train**

**Parking at MinuteVan offsite lots**

**Parking at rail station**

**Parking at Jones Field after 10 am**

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## **Complete Streets Initiative**

Shared Doug Halley's request for someone from TAC to join the **Complete Streets** working group. Email from Doug here:

-----Original Message-----

From: Doug Halley <[dhalley@acton-ma.gov](mailto:dhalley@acton-ma.gov)>

To: Franny Osman <[frannyola@aol.com](mailto:frannyola@aol.com)>

Sent: Mon, Jan 27, 2014 12:25 pm

Subject: RE: tac agenda

Franny,

I am working with MAPC on an initiative to have the Board of Selectmen adopt a "complete streets" (accommodating all modes of transport within the right of way) policy. If this is successful our future goal would be to have the Town adopt a bylaw, which would be more enforceable than a BOS-policy. MAPC and I have outlined a process as follows:

1. Have a working group/task force of key stakeholders provide input on the draft policy
2. Draft and refine the policy
3. Present to Planning Board/Board of Health/Transportation Advisory Committee/Sidewalk Committee for their support
4. Present to Board of Selectmen for adoption

That is the broad process that would be broken up into additional steps. Our first step, is to assemble a Working Group that would meet to discuss the elements of the potential policy, things to avoid/highlight, etc. We anticipate the working group to consist of some combination of Town Administrator, Planning, DPW Director, Town Engineer, Police Safety Officer, Transportation Advisory Committee, and/or Sidewalk Committee. This group would meet for about an hour in person and then provide comments on the draft policy via email.

Given that we are looking for a volunteer from TAC to assist in developing the "Complete Streets" policy. If that sounds like a plan that would work for TAC, please let me know who would like to serve and we can work on scheduling a kick-off meeting.

On a final point, there is a potential legislation known as Complete Streets Certification program, which would provide a pool of funding of \$10 million per year for 5 years for implementation of complete streets initiatives. The legislation was included in the Transportation Bond Bill and is now in the House of Representatives. One of the criteria to become certified is to have a complete streets policy adopted by the Board of Selectmen and so Acton could be ahead of the curve if the funding comes through and the Town wishes to become certified.

Doug

We discussed what this would mean for Acton. Talked about connecting Bruce Freeman Rail Trail with Assabet River Rail Trail. Talked about problem of hedges impeding sidewalks.

Jim Yarin volunteered.

### **Train Service weekend stoppages expected**

Rail will have stop of weekend service again for a few months during construction.

TAC believes it is a problem.

Jim Yarin presented a Resolution that the advisory committee recommend to the BOS that a letter be issued to the MBTA and associated entities (MassDot) that substitute transportation be provided for commuter rail stoppages due to construction, including weekends.

Seconded, and voted on unanimously in support.

Franny wants to get the cost of the service that they are stopping, to possible try to get \$ from some of the Boston destinations to help (weekend sports, entertainment outlets)

To do's that we have yet to do:

-Bengt and Franny bike survey draft—to find out what Town's priorities are for biking

Suggested we check for priorities with: Tom Michelman (BFRT) and Tom Kelleher (ARRT) and Charles River Wheelmen and Maynard and Acton bike shops

Adjourned 9:10 pm