

Notes on meeting of 4 April 2023

Attendees

Ginger Reiner
Bob Wolf
Jane Herlacher
Kevin Kennedy
Paula Vaughn
Deborah Howe
Tim Higgins
Chris Bibbo
John Vancor
Ken Bassett
Polina Kanj

The primary purpose of the meeting was to explore ways for further cooperation among the three entities focused on transportation within Lincoln. Each group briefly summarized their current focus and possibilities for the near future.

RTC

- Historically the charge to the Committee (3/15/2010) was to provide periodic review of roadway design and traffic matters, including roadside paths.
- Over time this role has included both review of project bid documents as well as participation with neighborhoods in shaping project designs.
- RTC anticipates working with BPAC and the Complete Streets Program as planning activities transition into built work.

BPAC

- BPAC activity is at a transition point moving from a planning phase into implementation of priority projects. The 9th chapter of BPAC's plan will include a review of accomplishments and next steps. Next steps will be facilitated by recent funding voted at Town Meeting for technical design services.
- BPAC's activities also focus on programs and policies designed to encourage alternative transportation solutions.
- Identification of funding sources will continue as Committee focus.

Complete Streets

- Complete Streets is a MA DOT program providing funding for projects identified in a five-year plan. Recent approval of the Town's plan allows projects to move from the planning phase into implementation. The program does not provide funding for design services.
- Some of the projects envisioned in the plan involve more extensive planning effort while others may proceed more quickly to implementation.
- The Complete Streets priorities are closely aligned with the BPAC priorities.

Transportation Coalition

- Tim Higgins noted other committee structures in town that share a common focus, notably housing which has created a coalition that meets periodically. Such a structure- a Transportation Coalition- could provide the vehicle for coordination of efforts among the three groups and a means for sorting out priorities, coordination of schedules, and other actions that would capitalize on the skills of the three groups.
- The concept outlined by Tim was endorsed and it was agreed that a quarterly meeting would include the chairs of the three groups, a chairperson (Margaret), Tim, and DPW director Bibbo. Other members of the groups would be notified of the meeting and would be free to attend.
- The next step proposed by Tim was to ask Paula to circulate alternative dates for the first meeting of the group.

Postal Service Discussion

- Polina Kanj, a resident at 338 South Great Road, briefed the Committee on her family's effort to work with the Postal Service to move her residences mailbox to her side of the street. Currently she must cross to the other side of the road to reach her mailbox. The risk involved for a pedestrian crossing South Great Road in this location is considerable given vehicular speeds, volume, and limited sight lines.
- Attached is a timeline of her efforts to convince the Postal Service to deliver mail to her side of the street. To date that has been unsuccessful. The Committee agreed that this situation deserves to be corrected and that the issue should receive support from the Lincoln Board of Selects who could reach out to our elected congressional representatives. Both RTC and BPAC agreed to communicate with the Selects regarding the situation.