

Transportation Coalition (TC) Meeting

Minutes of May 31, 2023

DRAFT

Attendees:

- For the Roadway Traffic Committee (RTC): Ken Bassett, Deb Howe, and Jane Herlacher; Selects' liaison Kim Bodnar
 - For the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC): Ginger Riener, Bob Wolf
 - Staff Support: Tim Higgins, Paula Vaughn-MacKenzie, and Chris Bibbo
 - Consulting Engineering: John Vancor Hayner - Swanson
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Coordination

The goal for the initial meeting was to brief one another on ongoing work and priorities to identify opportunities for increased communication and collaboration, and to identify potential conflicts.

RTC

RTC representatives shared a summary of the Committee's charge and the circumstances that led to its formation. The Committee's primary role is to ensure that roadway designs properly balance competing interests. The Committee is a standing committee that is advisory to the Select Board. It works in close cooperation with the DPW and its consulting engineer. Its charge includes roadway design character which favors the rural aesthetic, and safety.

Ken Bassett reviewed a list of projects and concerns that were key priorities for RTC:

- 1) Implementation of the Moccasin Hill/Weston Road intersection project with input from BPAC, staff, and engineering.
- 2) Desire for input into 5 Corners thinking and planning.
- 3) Desire for input into 117/Tower Road thinking and planning
- 4) Mall-area driveways and crosswalks – Need to clarify process for following up on new safety incidents and concerns from residents.
- 5) Need to review and update the Committee's charge, if necessary.
- 6) Need for a consistent sign policy that balances safety and aesthetics.
- 7) Annual resurfacing projects
- 8) Need to attract applicants to fill an existing vacancy.

BPAC

BPAC representatives and John Vancor updated the group on the status of the project to develop concept designs for nine priority potential projects which were listed in the handout provided by Ginger Reiner (attached). John Vancor stated that the concept plan development was in progress and he should have concepts to discuss with BPAC and the Transportation Coalition this summer.

The early group thinking seemed to acknowledge that some of the potential projects are more complex than others, and that we should try to identify one or two projects that will improve safety and that are more readily executable (e.g., Route 117/Tower Road).

BPAC's current priorities include:

- 1) Completing the Farrar Road Advisory Shoulder Pilot
- 2) Prompting MDOT to approve a vulnerable user safety sign modification to include both a cyclist and pedestrian instead of just a cyclist.
- 3) Creating a process for key town officials to be made aware of accidents when they occur, and to create a post-incident follow-up protocol.
- 4) Examining potential for a "rail w trail" program
- 5) Speed limits

Early Consensus

- 1) The TC will meet monthly.
- 2) The TC will provide the mechanism for all parties to remain in communication.
- 3) There was an acknowledgement that the TC is a place for "healthy tension" between sometimes competing interests (e.g., rural character and cycling and pedestrian safety and accommodations) to be discussed and for creative possibilities to be explored.
- 4) Priorities will be agreed upon by the group. We will adhere to agreed upon prioritization plans recognizing that procedures need to be in place to allow the Town to respond to situations that may arise that involve safety and require an immediate response.
- 5) When a situation or incident is brought to the attention of one of the committees by a resident, we will direct the key parties to the relevant staff member (i.e., Police Chief for matters of safety, DPW Superintendent for matters involving roadway design or maintenance, and Town Planner for matters that relate to strategic planning. The relevant staff member will take the lead in responding to the resident or other individual/s to confirm the response process and plan, and to undertake an initial assessment. Matters that require the attention of RTC and/or BPAC will appear on the subsequent TC agenda for review and ultimate decisions on response and implementation.
- 6) Accident Data – We should include this as a recurring item on future agendas and identify any recent accidents that may require a post-accident review.

Next Meeting: Wednesday morning, June 28th, 8:00 a.m. Please note that the Donaldson Room is unavailable. Instead, we will meet in the 2nd Floor Conference Room