

Meeting Minutes Transportation Advisory Committee

February 10, 2020 7:00 PM

School Committee Training Room, 3rd Floor Town Hall, 13 East Central Street, Natick MA 01760

Members present: Josh Ostroff, Chair; Matt Page; Steve Brayman; Alex Walker, Clerk; Cody Jacobs

Also present: Jeremy Marsette, PE, Director of Public Works.

Josh called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

Public Comment: no one was present to speak

No announcements of note were made to the committee

Josh, Cody and Town staff provided brief updates for committee members on a range of projects.

Bike Share Update (7:05 PM)

- Cody provided an update as he had reached out to several bike share companies.
- Zagster is a Boston based bike share company that does only manual bike and scooter share programs.
- All Zagster bike systems are dockless programs with bike subscriptions costing \$2,000 per bike per year.
- Revenue from usage of the bike share program from Zagster goes back to the town but is not expected to be a significant dollar amount.
- Cost of bike share programs are generally offset by sponsorship deals with local businesses. Josh suggested that he is aware that Mathworks may be interested in some level of sponsorship.
- Josh will make introductions for Cody with Framingham folks who had made some progress towards implementing a bike share program.

Complete Streets (7:28)

- About \$200,000 in grant funding has been approved by MassDOT for the Natick submission.
- Projects will go out to bid this week, with construction planned to begin in the spring.
- Approved projects will add pedestrian level lighting to Newfield Drive, and add crosswalk bump out and additional road markings and stripping on West Street.
- The town's capital plan includes funding for a reprioritization of Complete Streets projects. The reprioritization plan will go become a RFP to hire consulting services to complete the reprioritization of projects.
- Goal of the reprioritization project is to be complete by October 2020

Motion by Cody for Transportation Advisory Committee to support funding of the reprioritization project seconded by Matt, all attending members voted in favor.

5-Year Roadway Plan (7:40)

- Town capital budget will increase spending on roadways from \$1m to \$2.5m to supplement \$1m from Chapter 90 funding.

- The 5 year road plan has been updated using information ascertained by a condition scoring survey that was completed in 2019 by a private consulting firm.
- The updated 5 year plan hopes to go in front of the Select Board for approval in March.
- 2020 construction projects on the 5 year plan will open for bidding on March 5.
- Included in the 5 year plan is additional funding needed to complete water and sewer updates proceeding road construction / resurfacing. March Select Board meeting item will include costs for all items on 5 year plan.

Unaccepted Streets Initiatives (8:00)

- 25 of 150 miles in the town are categorized as unaccepted roadways, and are subject to only snow plowing and patch work type repairs by the town.
- Town's capital budget plan will contain a request to fund required survey and layout plans for unaccepted roadways at \$200,000.
- The unaccepted streets budget item would retain the services of a surveyor along with legal assistance to advise in the road acceptance process.
- It was noted how the town of Mansfield used special legislation to simplify the process for unaccepted road acceptance and the town is pursuing a similar avenue to pursue in Natick.

Motion by Cody to support the initiative, seconded by Matt, all approved. The motion was to “support Spring 2020 Town Meeting action to survey high priority unaccepted roads as part of comprehensive strategy to responsibly improve and maintain these roads.”

Pedestrian Safety initiatives (8:34)

- Josh shared information about the Select Board's 3-2 approval of sidewalks on the east side of 27 South between Hunter Lane and West Street.

RTA Update (8:43)

- Cody met with Karen Adelman-Foster to discussion expansion of bus service in Natick.
- MWRTA is underfunded by some accounts, and we may want to consider other options for 'last mile' transit within the town.
- Karen did not have a comment on the role the TAC could play in public transit options in the area.

Parking (8:49)

- Town meeting will discuss changes to minimum parking requirements for developments in the downtown area of Natick. Currently the minimum parking requirements for new development that are considered outdated, and are actually encouraging congestion when alternative transportation options are present.

Project Updates (8:50)

- MBTA / CRT connection design grant has been submitted with design work likely to start this summer. Goal is for construction to begin following the completion of the downtown MBTA station upgrade.

- 9/27 Interchange is currently being reviewed by MassDOT. There will be a public meeting this year. The intersection will be a divergent diamond style intersection.
- Route 27 North bids will open in March.
- Boden Lane bridge is now back open for pedestrians.

CRT Advisory Committee (8:57)

- There is little interest from the Transportation Advisory Committee to take any oversight role in projects taken by the CRT Advisory Committee.

Motion by Alex to not have oversight over project responsibility of the CRT. Cody seconded, unanimous support.

Committee Organization (9:05)

- Cody was nominated as Vice Chair by Josh, seconded by Steve. Unanimously voted.

Meeting Minutes from 1/9 (9:10)

Minutes approved on motion by Steve, seconded by Matt. Unanimously voted.

Meeting adjourned on a motion by Josh; seconded by Matt at 9:12 PM and unanimously voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Walker