Littleton Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 14th, 2019

Members Present: Gary Lacroix, Chairman; Betsy Bohling, Vice Chairman; Nicholas Pellegrino, Clerk; Aaron Allsop; Nick Bates-Haus; Mary Pickard; Chase Gerbig

Advisors Present: Maren Toohill, Town Planner; Kasia Heart, MAPC; Chris Stoddard, Director of Public Works; James Kennedy, interested citizen

Absent: Elizabeth Tretiak, Elder Services

Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Lacroix welcomed everyone and recapped what was discussed at the January Meeting.

Anything of Interest:
Chairman Lacroix informed the Council the Town received a grant to do planning for the Taylor/ Foster Street areas. There will be a town-wide meeting in April to begin the planning process. The meeting will include consultants and members of the pubic to give their input on how the area should be redesigned. The meeting will be at the Middle School on Friday and Saturday. The plans will include redesigning the access to the train station, as well as, designing housing and mixed used spaces.

Chris Stoddard stated the preliminary plans have been submitted to the state. There will be an NPO meeting soon. The project is approximately three to four years away from being built. Selectman Gerbig asked if the plans could be changed to include all of Foster Street. Chris said it is a possible, however, the current plan is just to redesign the intersection at Foster Street.

Chris informed the council the Public Works Department signed a contract with Beta to do a pavement study in the Town. The project will begin in April. Chris has been holding off on reconstructing roads until the study is complete.

MAPC:
Kasia Heart from MAPC was invited to the meeting. MAPC is a regional planning organization of Metro Boston. The regional Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is their sister agency. Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) deals with transportation and safety. Kasia explained MAPC deals with planning and policy; there are eight sub regions within MAPC. Littleton is in the MAGIC sub group. The group meets on a monthly basis and deals with a wide array of topics including agriculture, climate change, and transportation.

Kasia explained, with regards to transportation, MAPC deals a lot with trails. They help with the LandLine initiative which helps connect trails and greenways throughout the MAGIC subgroup. For example, the LandLine plan proposes having a spur of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail come close to Littleton and would connect the Nashua Rail Trail to the Bruce Freeman and Assabet Rail Trail, and connect the trails to local commuter rail stations. Kascia said that her colleague David Loutzenheiser would be the best person to talk to about LandLine. Kasica said MAPC also runs a program called Trail Map; one of her coworkers explores local trails and tries to map them. Nick Bates-Haus said he was interested in talking to Kascia’s coworker.

Kascia went into detail about the TAP application Process; TAP stands for Technical Assistance Program. It is a pot of money from the State that MAPC uses to fund projects. A town will need to submit an application for a project. Most of the recent projects that have been funded have been regional projects. Kascia recommended the Town partner with Acton,
Concord, Boxborough, etc. Projects are funded twice a year. The state is very interested in trails and they have their own funding program called Mass. Trails Initiative.

Kascia explained more about the MAGIC subgroup. The group helps fund and subsidize Micro Transit Service. Examples of Micro-Transit service include council on aging vans, smalls busses, and subsidized Uber/Lyft Programs. These programs are aimed towards people who do not have adequate access to transportation.

Kascia explained what Transit Orientated Development Planning (TOD) is. TOD Planning looks at zoning and how to take advantage of transit and planning around transit hubs. An example of this would be how to plan development and zoning around the Littleton Commuter Rail Station. TOD Planning can also encompass Parking Studies.

MAPC also funds and studies bike share, scooter share and emerging tech such as electric vehicles, autonomous vehicles and Uber/Lyft. Nick Bates-Haus asked Kascia how the Town could get more information on bike share programs. Kascia said she could email over some information. She cautioned the Council on bike share programs. Most of the companies that offer them want the town to subsidize them. She also said there is some debate as to what program is better: docked or undocked bikes. Littleton would need to decide which program is better and whether we would want to subsidize such a program.

**Littleton Common:**

The issue was raised as to whether a traffic study should be completed. Chris Stoddard recommended waiting to see if the Sewer Project goes through first. A traffic study would be a huge undertaking. The Littleton Common Project is predicated on updating zoning laws and using land to its highest use. If the sewer project isn’t passed the common cannot be built out as much. Zoning changes and upgraded sewers should allow for higher property values. Chris Stoddard and Chase Gerbig both noted the Littleton Common Project is still preliminary. Chris recommended focusing on something that can get done quicker.

**Safe Routes to School:**

Shaker Lane is officially a Safe Routes to School, school. This designation was awarded in January of 2019. In July, the Town can apply for a grant. Chris would like to use the grant money to put sidewalks up the length of Shaker Lane starting at Great Road. The sidewalks would be ready for the 2020-2021 school year. He would also like to resurface the roads around the school. The grant is one hundred percent funded by MassDOT. Nick Bates-Haus would like to have all the trails around the school connected with the sidewalks.

**AARP Community Challenge Grant:**

Chairman Lacroix brought up this topic. He asked the Town Planner, Maren Toohill, about the grant. Maren explained it isn’t too hard to get. The grant is aimed towards helping elderly people. The application for the grant is due by April 17th. The project has to be kept under $10,000. Gary asked the Council Members to think up ideas for grant applications.

**Rail Vision:**

Maren informed the Council the MBTA is undertaking a new study. The study asks cities and towns if money wasn’t an issue, what would you like to see the MBTA do? Maren explained that Littleton Station is seen as a key station. There should be transit orientated development nearby. The T is planning to go electric on some lines. Many legislative leaders are interested in this study, as well.

**Homework for Next Meeting:**
Nick informed the Council he made a list of organizations that deal with transportation. For the next meeting he will put together information for conferences to attend. He will also reach out to the Acton Sidewalk Committee.

**Next Meeting:**
The date for the next meeting will be May 23rd, 2019 at 5:00pm.

**Motion to Accept Meeting Minutes:**
The Motion to Accept the Meeting Minutes from the January meeting was made by Mary Pickard and seconded by Nick Bates-Haus. The Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion to Adjourn Meeting:**
The Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by Nick Bates-Haus and seconded by Mary Pickard. The Motion passed unanimously.