Littleton Transportation Advisory Council (TAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 4th, 2019 - 5:30pm

Members Present: Gary Lacroix, Chairman; Betsy Bohling, Vice-Chairman; Nicholas Pellegrino, Clerk; Anna Hueston; Mary Pickard.

Non-Members Present: Liz Tretiak, Elder Services; Chris Stoddard, Department of Public Works; Paul Glavey, Board of Selectmen.

1. Pledge of Allegiance/ Welcome:
   The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Chairman Lacroix welcomed everyone.

2. Items of Interest:
   a. Chris Stoddard, DPW. Chris Stoddard informed the council that the Town will be paving various roads over the next couple of months. The road paving contract has been awarded to Lazarro. Chris also said Beta finished the road management plan for the Town. There will be a citizen portal which will show what roads will be prioritized. Chris said the proposal for the Meadow Brook/Long Lake Area came back. The proposal includes a plan for installing sidewalks, new berms, etc. The project should begin next summer. Chris was asked about the traffic light that the Town wants installed at the high school. He said the proposal is still with the State being reviewed. The light won’t be operational for another 18 months. The TIP for the Foster Street area will be back in a few weeks. There should be a hearing about it around Christmas time. The TIP design should be 75% complete by next summer. Chris said the Town completed a traffic study at the intersection of Beaver Brook Road at Great Road. The town wants a new light for that intersection; the intersection meets 4 of the 8 criteria for needing a light. The intersection is a high hazard intersection. The Town is hoping to convince the State to pay for the light. Finally, Chris mentioned the Town may be eligible for a MassWorks Grant for Great Road from the Common all the way up to Acton Toyota. The Town wants to add sidewalks and replace the water mains. The Town may install the new sewer pipes, as well.

   b. Liz Tretiak, Elder Services. Liz informed the council that her department is providing about 500 rides per month to seniors and people with disabilities. Her department applied for and received a grant from the state to pay for more advertising and rider guides. The rider guides are given to new riders. The department is running 2 buses a day. Liz confirmed the dispatcher keeps Littleton people on the Littleton buses; the dispatcher works for CrossTown Connect. One of the buses is maintained by MART; one of the buses is maintained by the Department of Elder Services. Liz confirmed they get occasional requests for rides on nights and weekends. Liz was asked if MART would pay for more buses and drivers but she wasn’t sure they have the money.

3. Anna Hueston re: Planning Board items:
Anna informed the Council that the Train Station Work Group is progressing well. The group is looking at the Taylor/Foster Street area. Judy Barret is the consultant for the group. The group and the MBTA is looking at increasing the capacity on the commuter rail trains. Chris Stoddard informed the Council that the MBTA is going to install 64 more parking spaces at the train station.

4. **Grant Application suggestions:**

   a. **Anna Hueston**  Anna talked to Police Chief Pinard about applying to two Massachusetts Office of Public Safety and Security Grants (Public Safety & Traffic Enforcement). Under the Public Safety grant, Chief Pinard would want $21,000 for active shooter training. However, the active shooter training doesn’t fall within the purview of this Council because it’s not transportation related. However, the Town could pursue a Traffic Enforcement grant for more blinking speed signs and electronic message board signs. Chris Stoddard said that a fixed electronic speed limit sign like the one on Russell Street costs about $10K to install. The mobile ones that have been placed across the town with a smiley face when under the speed limit costs a few thousand.

   b. **Gary Lacroix on behalf of Nik Bates-Haus and BPAC.** Gary shared an email from Nik as to grant suggestions from BPAC (excerpt below).

For MassTrails, two projects that align extremely well are:
- Upgrading the walking path right-of-way that goes from Great Road, through the Couper and Marsh developments, to Goldsmith Street. Currently this is a path, with some mulch; it could be upgraded to be a handicap-accessible, paved, multi-use path that gives the community and senior community walking access to Goldsmith, town beach, and Shaker Lane; and connects the family-dense community on the Goldsmith side to Dunkin Donuts, Donelans, etc. on the Great Rd. side.

- MAPC Landline - this bicycle route, on Willow / Bruce / Harwood / Nashoba / Nagog Hill, as outlined by MAPC, would connect the communities of Ayer, Harvard, Littleton, and Acton via bicycle lanes on roads that are already heavily traveled by bicycles. Each of these projects needs engineering and design to be ready to implement.

For Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Grant Program (PBSGP):
- Installing an RRFB (flashing pedestrian beacon like Kimball Farms has) at the Roxbury / Goldsmith intersection to facilitate crossing to Shaker Lane School.

For MAPC TAP:
- Installing water stations at Castle in the Trees, Town Beach, and Fay Park. This project would be in conjunction with the Rotary.
No other member had other suggestions to bring forward on grant ideas. From discussion that followed the consensus was that the work to develop the trail on the Couper property would have the greatest impact to the community with added benefit of being in line with the objectives of the Master Plan to promote trails that connect areas of the town and would promote access to the Common. For a smaller cost item, pursuing grants for the speed limit signs was recommended. Chris Stoddard indicated a willingness to help develop cost estimates for these grant proposals. Gary indicated that he would contact Nik Bates-Haus to follow-up on the trail idea and try to arrange a site walk of the trail path.

5. Betsy Bohling on MicroTransit Project:

Betsy attended a steering committee meeting regarding the pilot program sponsored by MAGIC where towns can use Uber and Lyft to provide subsidized rides for elderly and disabled people. Most of the rides won’t cost the riders more than $10. The program is currently being used in Acton, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, and Stow with Sudbury having the lead role. The benefit of the program is to provide subsidized rides outside of normal service hours. Betsy indicated however that the response so far has been underwhelming. There are liability issues with safety concerns about the drivers and the target demographic is less likely to be familiar with these services/be more technologically adverse. Liz thinks the program has potential but won’t work for Littleton right now. One of the main issues is that the Town can’t control who the drivers are so Liz is concerned there may be bad experiences for some riders.

6. Report out from Committee Members:

Nothing else was shared by participants other than Gary noted that he was not asked to provide a yearly update to the selectmen. Paul Glavey suggested that Gary contact Chase, the Selectmen’s rep on TAC about this.

7. Moving Together Conference:

Gary informed the Council that the State is hosting the Moving Together Conference in Worcester on October 24, 2019 and encouraged someone to attend. It is sponsored by a lot of transportation companies.

8. Other information:

Gary mentioned there was a lot of info in the MAPC/MAGIC newsletters and would forward the information separately.

9. Next Meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for October 23, 2019; start time either 5:00 or 5:30pm.

10. Motion to Adjourn:

Motion made by Mary and seconded by Betsy. The motion passed unanimously.