

Town of Sharon



Transportation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes August 27, 2019

Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Members

David Straus, Chair	Linda Hager
Neil Coplan	Terri Rawding
David Fixler absent	

Other Attendees

Peter O'Cain, Town Engineer, DPW Representative
Mike Balestra, Sharon Police Department Representative

Administration

- The meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Straus at 7:03 PM at the Community Center.
- Future scheduled meetings: 9/26, 10/8, 10/24, 11/12

Traffic Study

- Chair Straus commented that the Board met with the Select Board on 7/27/19 and Tom Houston presented a walk-through of his Traffic Study Report. He said the Select Board was updated on the process that the TAB was following and associated next steps. TAB will need to make a formal presentation to the Select Board with their recommendations.
- Chair Straus also said that the TAB needs to think of all budgeting actions and make a recommendation for next fiscal year.
- Peter O'Cain stated there is a one million dollar budget in the Recycling Fund for the train station.
- Chair Straus said over the next few months the Board needs to prioritize recommendations of what should be done at the station. This is to include our viewpoint on a parking deck, our recommendation for the near term and long term parking, bicycles, pedestrians and overall access to the station area. He stated that the survey results are a way to obtain feedback from the station users.
- The majority of Tom Houston's Report focused on the level of service impact at the intersections then gets into traffic and safety issues. A redesign of the entryway access on Depot Street with an egress on Chestnut Street and associated bicycle and pedestrian

improvements was a big feature. A traffic circle was one suggestion at Chestnut Street to control traffic. Timing of lights at Billings Street was always reviewed.

- Chair Straus asked that everyone review the Study to help determine how to best maximize the efficiency for the lot.
- The takeaway is if more parking is added does it impact traffic. The short term issue is the flow of traffic in the parking lot.
- Mr. O'Cain commented that there are 20 - 100 open spaces in the lot on a daily basis. Expanding the spaces for improvements will reduce open spaces. He said currently the lot is oversold. People look for daily spots more than quarterly. Mr. Straus said if we shift the resident lot to daily parking this will reduce the open spaces.
- The existing designs presented were reviewed and commented upon. Existing conflicts include pedestrians and vehicles. There is no dedicated bicycle path and lane. Is it feasible to add a deck? It is important for safety and flow issues to make the streets operate more efficiently. Dedicated drop off areas were discussed.
- All agreed that improvements need to be made. It is interesting looking at the redesigns proposed. Having a dedicated entry and exit to the resident lot was reviewed.
- The Board needs to make further recommendations to further build this out.
- Mr. O'Cain asked Ms. Hager to prepare a design as she sees appropriate as she is a Civil Engineer.
- Mr. O'Cain said determine what's the general flow path then you can get into the spaces and details. He suggested keeping daily's out of quarterly to help the safety issues, He said look at traffic data to see what will change. There are a lot of walking pedestrians to the station.
- The pros are if you separate the residents to and from drop off/pick up area this reduces the conflict areas. It will also be easier for large flow if drop off/pick up vehicles que and it won't be in the way of the commuters accessing the parking lot to park.
- Mr. Straus moved and Mr. Coplan seconded a motion to authorize Town Engineer Peter O'Cain to work with Tom Houston to determine appropriate designs and their impact. All voted in favor of approval.
- Southbound to Providence platform, bicycle lanes and pick up and drop offs need to be reviewed for that side as well. TAB endorses this general idea and asked that engineering flush out any issues with the design. Ms. Hager moved and Mr. Coplan seconded a motion to endorse further review and action on this side of the platform. All voted in favor of approval.
- Mr. O'Cain will discuss with Mr. Turkington the State Project on this side.

Survey

- Mr. Straus provided a draft Survey and asked that the TAB provide him with any changes commentary. This survey will help garner the thoughts of the users as to how they use the train station and what they think needs to be improved.
- Mr. O'Cain said he can put up a digital sign around Town to remind people to fill out the survey He will also look into whether the Town has Survey Monkey to use for the survey.

Other

- It was decided that the Board will meet twice monthly alternating Tuesday and Thursday evenings to accommodate all members. It was determined that the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday would be the designated meeting nights; Tuesday beginning at 7:00PM and Thursdays beginning at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

Through unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted:

Rachelle Levitts

Transportation Advisory Board Administrative Assistant