

Town of Sharon



Transportation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of 5/17/23

Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Members

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| David Fixler Co Chair | Sam Liao |
| Linda Hager Co Chair | Terri Rawding |
| Neil Coplan - absent | |

Other Attendees

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| Kevin Davis, DPW Representative, Katherine Hughes, Linda and Jim McSherry |
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Administration

- The meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board was called to order at 7:00 PM via ZOOM.
- Future scheduled meeting(s): 5/24

Minutes

- Minutes of 4/12 and 5/10 were deferred. It was asked that all members review the minutes prior to the meeting and provide Rachelle with any changes/comments.

Survey and Parking Discussion

- Chair Hager said that SB member Kiana Pierre-Louis was going to ask the SB for an extension for our parking report and we are awaiting her response.
- Co-Chair Fixler said he is not worried about the deadline.
- Ms. Hager said that she looked at the data and it needs to be compiled in a presentable format. She will meet with Assistant Town Engineer Davis to work on this. Mr. Liao will also join.
- All members agreed to close the survey. Mr. Davis was in agreement.
- Mr. Fixler asked if there is a way to see specific comments. Mr. Davis said he will provide a logon and password to survey monkey.
- Mr. Davis shared the parking statistics with the TAB.
- A discussion regarding the quarterly passes ensued. It was suggested that in the report the number of people that bought quarterly passes should be included.
- Ms. Rawding asked for the percentage increase in use per month from January to April. She said you can see a trend line slowly increasing.

- It was mentioned that eh MBTA may have stats on ridership that could be used within the report. Mr. Fixler will send the Board the link. He said that October 2022 ridership was 78% of pre-pandemic levels. In April, 2023 ridership was 79% of pre-pandemic levels.
- Mr. Liao asked that Saturday and Sunday data be removed from the graphs.
- Mr. Davis said we are down in quarterly spot sales.

E-bike Pad

- Ms. Hager said we need to come to a decision regarding the location for the E-bike pad.
- Mr. Davis said that Mr. O'Cain and Mr. Hooper are firm on where they want the pad located.
- TAB needs to write their decision and provide to the SB. As Roadway Commissioners, the SB makes the final decision.
- Ms. Hager thinks the location chosen by the DPW is a safety issue. She said we have heard from residents not to select green space. Visibility was discussed
- If people arrive from Boston, they would have to go to the other side to obtain an E-bike.
- Mr. Fixler said we should not put anything on MBTA property.
- Ms. Rawding said what are we trying to do? Looking for a location for e-bikes and regular bicycles?
- Mr. Liao thought putting the pad on the Providence side and having signs to have riders walking the bikes up the pedestrian exit ramps and on the bridge sidewalk towards the center of Town thus avoiding riding the bikes in car traffic on the bridge portion of Rt 27 would mitigate some if not all of the safety concerns with having the E-Bike racks on the Providence side of the station. Also, most people who ride would want to return the bike on the inbound side. He suggested possibly putting e-bikes on both sides of the station.
- Mr. Fixler said he likes that idea. As this is a pilot, it may not work so place the pad on unused pavement and see what happens. All TAB members agreed.
- Mr. Liao said we all agree to place the pad in a paved parking area. We need a united front not to put it in green space.
- Mr. Liao suggested a location near the ramp on the Providence side. He also suggested on the outbound side across the hi level platform in spaces 88, 87, 86 and 85 under the trees. This would be a preferred location away from car traffic. The other option is after the mini hi but near the tracks. He said we should select these and suggest the DPW pick one.
- Mr. Davis said the E-bike use is thought to be on weekends and off peak hours.
- Ms. Hager said ridership is not at full capacity. It is a 3-year pilot program. Let's see how it goes.
- Mr. Fixler suggested there might be pushback if we locate the bikes near the platform in quarterly spaces.
- Mr. Davis said if the program is not sustainable, bikes get auctioned. Revolving account monies pay for bike maintenance. Bikes have gps trackers.
- Resident Karen Hughes asked if there can be an agreement between TAB and the DPW.
- Mr. Davis said there is a strong disagreement between the DPW and TAB. DPW does not agree that any other location is more suitable. Roadway Commissioners make the final decision.
- Mr. Fixler said the DPW is clear on what they want. He's hoping the SB sees it's a pilot and speculative and considers what the residents want.
- Mr. Liao moved that the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) recommend to the Select Board 3 locations discussed at the 5/17/23 TAB meeting regarding an appropriate location for the E-Bike pilot program. The first recommendation is on the Providence bound side in the northwest corner. Also recommended on the inbound side are two locations south of the tracks. The exact location will be provided in drawings by Co-Chair Linda Hager. Ms. Rawding seconded the motion. The Board voted 4-0-0 unanimously in favor of the motion.
- Mr. Davis said the DPW would be doing the installation.

Other

- Mr. Liao said he heard that bicycle lanes on S. Main Street were on the SB Agenda. He doesn't know the pros and cons but questioned if the TAB should be involved.
- Mr. Fixler said we are getting further away from the train station charge. The SB did not discuss this with us.
- Ms. Hager said we need to talk about the charge. The original focus was to talk about the train station.

Adjournment

Mr. Liao moved to adjourn at 8:45 PM and Mr. Fixler seconded the motion. The Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of adjournment.

Submitted:

Rachelle Levitts

Transportation Advisory Board Administrative Assistant