

Town of Sharon



Transportation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of 5/31/23

Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Members

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

Other Attendees

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

Administration

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

Train Station Survey Report

- With reference to the Train Station Report, Select Board Member Kiana Pierre-Louis said the SB provided an extension for the report submission to 7/20 for discussion at the 8/1/23 meeting.
- Mr. Fixler said he will not be at the 8/1 meeting.

Minutes

- Mr. Liao moved to approve the 5/17/23 minutes. Ms. Rawding seconded the motion. The Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of approval.

E-bike Pad

- Chair Hager said that the TAB needs to submit the E-bike report by tomorrow to the SB as this topic is on the 6/6 SB Agenda.
- Mr. Fixler can be present at the 6/6 meeting as Ms. Hager cannot attend.
- Mr. Liao took measurements of the various locations within the station and showed to the Board. Each location was reviewed for dimensions. The spot chosen by the DPW was looked at as well and it can be seen that the space is not yet completely cleared. Mr. Davis showed the CAD file with contours.

- Mr. Liao said in his opinion a 50x20 foot pad is not an appropriate requirement for a pad. If placing on a flat surface or paved parking lot, he said the space can be reduced.
- Chair Hager said she does not want to challenge size. It needs to accommodate E-bikes and regular bikes.
- Mr. Davis said there are 10 E-bikes and $\frac{3}{4}$ racks.
- Mr. Liao said if we can have smaller dimensions then it is easier to accommodate in the location near the ramp.
- Mr. Liao said he will attend the SB meeting with Mr. Fixler.
- Ms. Hughes asked how do we discuss safety issues. Chair Hager agreed and additional signage may be needed. The proposed DPW site is dangerous as people are crossing near cars.
- With reference to Ms. Hughes suggestion, Mr. Liao said the area needs to be built up with fill and then it will work.
- All options were discussed by the board.
- Chair Fixler said the theme is that we took a look. We heard from the neighbors and abutters. There is significant issue with the current plan. This is a provisional pilot program. See where it goes. The 4 spots TAB is suggesting is better than the DPW proposal. He said at the meeting we may not engage in debate. We need to express these choices are better from a safety perspective. Mr. Liao will be at the meeting for technical support. He believes there will be pushback on the Providence side choice due to reaching capacity on certain days.
- Mr. Liao commended Mr. Fixler for his articulation of the issues. He said if it comes to a safety issue on the Providence bound side and a parking capacity issue then the default should be one of the 2 red locations on the Boston side. It is the least controversial.
- Ms. Rawding said we need a solid reason why it is safer to use the 2 spots in the corner. How do we say it is safe to drive through the parking lot?
- Ms. Hager said the existing bike racks need to be moved per the MBTA.
- Mr. Liao said let's just worry about E-bikes now and the regular bikes can be in another phase. Can the MBTA provide any accommodations so that we only worry about E-bikes now.
- Mr. Davis said the E-bikes and conventional bikes are being moved together.
- Mr. Davis said that 30 riders used them over the weekend as it was a soft release on Memorial Day.
- Chair Fixler said the whole reason the pad is at the station is for commuters. It is more logical to place them at the Community Center. We are spending time and are unsure if they will be used. The parking lot is the least intrusive. This is being tied to both conventional and E-bikes. He thinks they do not have to go together. The DPW is choosing them to go together. E-bikes are not used during the week.
- Ms. Rawding said her argument is safety. We do not have many options. The current proposed spot has more pedestrians in a high traffic area which is a problem. We are piggybacking off of the grant. There is a lot going on in that intersection.
- Chair Fixler said putting E-bikes and conventional bikes together is complicating matters. The location is dangerous, not just on weekends but every day. Our proposed locations are safer.
- Mr. Liao said we need spots with a clear view of the parking lot so you can see cars coming and going.
- Resident Linda McSherry said you cannot eliminate unsafeness. There is risk everywhere in the parking lot. There is no data on people coming from the city to ride around Sharon.

Motions

- **5/17/23 motion** 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.

- **5/31/23 motion** Mr. Liao moved to amend the motion voted on May 17, 2023 to recommend alternate four locations, two on the Boston Bound side and two on the Providence Bound side, as per the revised drawings discussed at the meeting of May 31, 2023, to be provided by the TAB. Mr. Fixler seconded the motion. The TAB voted 4-0-0 unanimously in favor of approval.

Adjournment

- Mr. Liao moved to adjourn and Mr., Fixler seconded the motion. The board voted 4-0-0 in favor of adjournment at 8:15 PM.