

## Transportation Coalition Meeting Minutes January 29, 2026, 8:00 a.m. Hybrid meeting

Present: Margaret Olson-Chair, Kim Bodnar, Tim Higgins, Steve Olson, Acting Chief Jon Wentworth, Officer Seth Gordon, Ginger Reiner, Jane Herlacher, Rob Soluri, Bob Wolf, Paula Vaughn-MacKenzie and John Vancor (IMEG)

Virtual: Rob Ahlert and Ken Bassett

Public: None

1. Margaret Olson made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Seconded by Ginger Reiner. Approved unanimously.
2. **DISCUSSION OF CRITERIA FOR CROSSWALK INSTALLATIONS** – Margaret opened the discussion by raising the need for clear criteria to guide where crosswalks should be located. Margaret mentioned reviewing Peter Furth's "Level of Traffic Stress" matrix to better understand where the greatest need is. Dr. Furth is a professor at Northeastern University and spoke in Concord recently. John Vancor advised that there could be tension between engineering and public needs, but he supports Peter Furth and his use of weighted data and believes there could be synergies using both Dr. Furth's method and engineering evaluations for locations of future crosswalks. Bob Wolf mentioned that we might consider using criteria that focuses on the number of households affected. Tim Higgins recommended we consider adding crosswalks to connect pathways. Finally, Ginger reminded the committee of the completed "Opinion of Probable Construction Cost" completed by Hayner/Swanson in 2024 for BPAC and the crosswalk across Rt. 126 and Farrar Road.

The crosswalk at Rt. 117 and Tower Road was discussed as it was mentioned numerous times by residents in the survey completed last September. This crosswalk will need considerable study as there was concern that a crosswalk could make the area less safe. This will also be an expensive project, so Paula mentioned a possible Complete Streets Grant and possibly a Safe Routes to School grant. Ginger and Bob are continuing their work with the schools to accrue points which will help us in securing this type of grant.

3. **FUNDING/BONDING SOURCES FOR FUTURE PROJECTS** – It was mentioned that the Ballfield Road circulation update and repaving project would be a stand-alone project and its own warrant article at Town Meeting. Estimated cost at this time is \$1m. The larger Road repaving project has been discussed with the Finance Committee and is on everyone's radar.

John Vancor advised that road maintenance should be placed on a future agenda.

4. **TC/BPAC/RTC charges and possible reorganization** – Margaret opened the conversation with a review of the three committees, noting potential duplication of effort given that TC's official charge has not been created, and BPAC and RTC's charges have not been updated since the formation of the Transportation Coalition. For larger, high-interest topics, Ginger suggested placing items on an agenda for a first read, followed by a subsequent agenda for a second read and discussion prior to any final decisions.

Margaret and Kim have drafted a proposed new structure for BPAC, RTC, and the Transportation Coalition, along with updated committee charges. They will review this draft with Tim and Paula to benefit from their experience and gather feedback, before sharing the proposed updates for comments and edits with RTC and BPAC leadership.

5. **UPDATES** – Acting Chief Jon Wentworth advised that a speed study was completed for Bedford Road North. Steve Olson reminded the committee that a contractor has been hired for the raised crosswalk at the Old Town Hall Exchange, and the construction schedule will be organized around the Water Main Project. Steve and Tim Higgins also provided an update on a drainage project that will take place on Bedford Road from the hill to the five corners beginning in March. This project will take ~12 weeks and the Town will use chapter 90 funds. Phase 2 of the Water Main Project will begin this summer and will be completed over two years. A public forum will be scheduled in late February to update residents on all these projects. Finally, Steve advised that the Rt. 126 Bridge project led by MassDOT is slated to begin in the fall. This will be a longer-term project with a planned duration of over 5 years.

**Other discussion items**

Margaret made a motion to adjourn at 9:16 am. Bob Wolf seconded. Approved unanimously.

Minutes by Kim Bodnar