

Town of Needham
Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee

Minutes for Monday, April 8, 2024

HYBRID

Charles River Room, Public Services Administration Building
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or

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ADOPTED MAY 22, 2024

7:04 p.m. Call to Order:
A meeting of the Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee was convened by Tim Bulger, Vice Chair. Those present in-person were Duncan Allen, Tyler Gabrielski, James Goldstein, Shane Mark, and Paul Molta. Moe Handel joined at 7:30 p.m.

7:06 p.m. Debrief from Semi-Annual Transportation Committee Meeting:

Committee members debriefed the Semi-Annual Transportation Committee Meeting held on March 18. Mr. Bulger suggested that the next meeting could address what each committee hopes to address in the upcoming months and progress on specific goals. Discussion also included how to align goals across the committees and that the next Semi-Annual Transportation Committee meeting could include information on how each committee works and a few highlights from each committee. Committee members agreed that the level of information provided was appropriate for the public to understand.

Feedback on logistics included ensuring that these public-facing meetings are kept to an appropriate length of time and avoiding repetition of information for members of the public who have attended before, while ensuring that there is sufficient background information for individuals attending for the first time. There are some nuances in the content of each meeting, taking into consideration that the content of these public meetings partly depends on the frequency of the MPCC's meetings. Committee members also discussed further maintenance and improvements to the Rail Trail and the best way to strategize for these.

7:32 p.m. Update on Transportation Scoping Grant from MAPC:

Mr. Gabrielski provided an updated on the Transportation Scoping Grant from MAPC. Mr. Gabrielski shared Complete Streets prioritization list with the representative from MAPC, as well as the various committee charges and the September 2023 Feasibility Study for the Needham-Newton Community Way. Mr. Gabrielski noted that he has been sent a draft scope and other materials for review. Mr. Gabrielski then presented a draft of the Needham Transportation Policy Plan

Scoping Assistance Statement of Work thus far. Committee members then discussed the purpose of the Scoping Assistance Statement of Work. Significant themes included climate resiliency, infrastructure treatment, ensuring functional classification, and including multimodal transportation. The goal is to have a completed draft scope by the end of the summer and a final scope and budget delivered by the end of September.

8:07 p.m. Update on Downtown Redesign Firm Selection and Next Steps:

With the feedback from the Select Board and other Town Staff, the Selection Committee decided on Environmental Partners Group for the Downtown Redesign. Preliminary designs will be used as a starting point but there will be an extensive process with many stakeholders' input to continue the design process. An initial scoping meeting will take place and include a wide range of representatives.

8:16 p.m. Update on Downtown Bottleneck Grant:

Mr. Gabrielski reported on an update on the Downtown Bottleneck Grant through the Local Bottleneck Reduction Program. The goal of this project is upgraded equipment in the intersections they are addressing. This project will focus on timing, upgrading detection technology, and the coordination of these elements informed by data.

8:22 p.m. Update on Dedham Ave and Webster St Projects:

A neighborhood meeting was held regarding the crosswalk from George Aggott Road to DeFazio Park. Mr. Gabrielski reported that there is significant buy-in for the crosswalk. Residents expressed concerns and thoughts about parking, which is being handled separately. This change is part of the solution to make the location safer for people who cross the street at this location.

8:27 p.m. Committee Discussion on Future Meeting Dates:

Committee members agreed to continue meeting monthly, taking into consideration the progress of the MAPC Scoping Grant and ensuring that the public is informed of meeting dates in advance.

8:32 p.m. Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Handel that the Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee vote to adjourn the meeting of Monday, April 8, 2024.

Second: Mr. Allen. Unanimously approved 4-0.

The next Mobility Planning & Coordination Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.