

Transportation Advisory Committee

Spring 2022 Town Meeting

Anticipated changes to this presentation

- Add images/illustrations**
- Identify recent project requests, e.g. Winter Street**
- Additional references, including comparable projects/initiatives in other communities**
- FinCom suggestions/input**

TAC Charge, members, and staff support

Charge To advise the Town on transportation projects and policies through an integrated approach that reflects all modes of transportation, including transit, cycling, pedestrian and vehicular.

Members

- Josh Ostroff, Chair
- Cody Jacobs, Vice Chair
- Alex Walker, Clerk
- Matt Page
- Abby Brown
- Sarah Ward
- *(One vacancy)*

Staff support

- Director of Public Works and Town Engineer
- Director of Community and Economic Development

Committee Recommendations

1. Implement speed limit reductions and related education and engineering.

- Legislation accepted by Spring 2021 TM (125-5-1, 117-5-3)
- Draft framework will set 25 mph default limit for Town roads
- Selected roads will be 30 mph (current default)
- Certain roads will remain to state regulations with higher limits
- Education and communication to promote safe driving
- Continue to engineer and improve roads to promote safety

Committee Recommendations

2. Develop Town-wide pedestrian plan to encourage safe and convenient walking.

- Integrate multiple plans and initiatives to prioritize connectivity investments and safety
- A transportation goal of the Natick 2030+ Master Plan
- Incorporate the five year roadway plan, other capital projects, and our Complete Streets prioritization plan.

Committee Recommendations

2. Develop Town-wide bicycle plan to encourage safe and convenient cycling

- A transportation goal of the Natick 2030+ Master Plan
- Prioritize upgrades and policies that promote healthy and safe cycling for transportation and recreation.
- Include bicycle infrastructure and policies that be shared with other forms of micromobility, such as e-bikes and e-scooters.

Committee Recommendations

4. Initiate Main Street design process in Natick Center

- Comprehensive redesign of from North Main Street at North Avenue to South Main Street at Cottage Street.
- Include a public engagement process to precede design, and incorporate community values that contribute to a thriving town center.
- Supplement past appropriations (Fall 2014, \$280,000) with Town/grant funds.
- Strong candidate for MPO construction funding
- Natick Center MBTA Station project will upgrade Main St/South Ave/Middlesex Ave intersection
- CRT extension (now in design) will terminate at North Main St/North Ave

Committee Recommendations

5. Revamp project initiation to integrate transportation planning and safety considerations

- Requests for transportation improvements should have a standard, transparent process
- Includes transportation planning and safety,
- Connect to capital planning
- Neither the Safety Committee nor the TAC have an established process to direct work flow for most projects.

Committee Recommendations

6. Develop parking policies

- Pursue parking policies and opportunities to support changing travel patterns and promote smart growth development.
- Consider daily commuter parking options
- Consider paid commuter parking on suitable residential streets near MBTA
- Consider how the Town staffs these functions
- Consider a Parking Benefits District to retain parking revenue within a defined zone and to direct investment for community benefit.

Committee Recommendations

7. Continue to explore regional bike share

- Continue collaboration with Framingham and other communities
- Potentially in partnership with MAPC
- invite proposals to encourage cycling within Natick and between communities
- State grants are available, and corporate partners have expressed interest

8. Consider incentives tied to school bus fees

- Evaluate how fees relate to school traffic, congestion and safety concerns during pick-up and drop-off.
- Harmonize Town and school transportation priorities (including sidewalk snow clearing policies) to encourage walking, cycling, busing, and reduce discretionary automobile trips.

9. Continue to leverage state grant programs (Complete Streets, Shared Streets and Spaces, Bottleneck Reduction)

2022 Committee Priorities

- A. Discuss **how the TAC can be most effective** in addressing the community's needs for transportation improvements
- B. Identify opportunities to **promote / expand public transportation**
- C. Promote **transportation equity** for underserved populations
- D. Promote transportation access for residents of **all ages**, including seniors and children

2022 Committee Priorities

- E. Promote transportation policies that will support the Town's **Net Zero emissions plan**
- F. Keep up-to-date on **state projects**, both new and ongoing, such as the 9/27 interchange, MBTA capital projects and bridge replacements, and proposed pedestrian safety improvements along Route 9 and the Natick Mall
- G. Keep up-to-date on **State and Federal transportation policy and/or funding opportunities**

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NatickMA.gov/TAC