

Barre City Transportation Advisory Committee
November 17th, 2021, 6:30 PM
Barre City Council Chamber

Members present: Michael Hellein, Jacob Hemmerick, Joanne Reynolds

City support staff: Bill Ahearn, Elijah Morgan, Mayor Lucas Herring, Steve McKenzie

Visitor(s): Amy Galford

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1. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Michael Hellein, at 6:33 pm.
 2. Adjustments to the Agenda
 - a. There were no adjustments to the agenda.
 3. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. The Chair announced that there be any changes to the minutes, that they are announced. No changes were made. Joanne Reynolds motioned to approve October minutes. Jacob Hemmerick seconded this motion. All members were in favor, with no opposition.
 4. Visitors and Communications
 - a. Mayor Lucas Herring mentioned that the TAC needed to appoint a member from the committee to be secretary. Relieving this duty from its current role in City staffing. Jake Hemmerick agreed to take the TAC notes over starting at the next meeting.
 5. Public Works Department Monthly Transportation Report
 - a. Bill Ahearn noted that the DPW worked more towards traffic accessibility throughout the City. Noting that encroachments on intersections, tree removal, and sight distance improvements. Painting has been a priority of the DPW staff, where stop bars, line delineations, and Spaulding School traffic management.

Chair Michael Hellein noted that the reports are helpful to have. He questioned the rapid response that was seen in the resolution of Spaulding's traffic management adjustments.

Bill Ahearn rebutted with the traffic safety issues with the current parking setup on Ayers St. Which with the truck traffic seen by Circle and Ayers St causes safety issues in the previous setup. The current setup allows for pedestrian and car safety, with considerations to the turning radius patterns of vehicles. Bill Ahearn

questioned the goals of the current Chair, noting that the TAC was left out of this decision due to the urgency of the required action.

Chair Michael Hellein suggested that the DPW is giving an disproportionate balance to the prioritization of certain action items.

Bill Ahearn responded with the ADA compliance and traffic safety trumps the advice timeline of the TAC.

Chair Michael Hellein suggested for future items there needed to be a weighing process of queued items and new items.

- b. There were no new resident concerns mentioned.
6. New Business
- a. Discuss priority items for upcoming meetings
 - i. Chair Michael Hellein presented a itemized list of the various priorities of the TAC that were to be set by staff and the TAC for their appropriate order.

Bill Ahearn stated that the City wide effort for traffic calming is going to be the number 1 priority. Noting that he is open to feedback on how he can start to educate citizens on the appropriate speeds for traffic. TAC feedback on a PSA, social media, etc.. presence was welcomed for this.

Chair Michael Hellein stated that lane widths were also a part of the problem.

Bill Ahearn notes that there is a commercial interest that needs to be taken into consideration for this. There will be a significant community wide impact in the event that the lane width study and or potential changes do not take into account truck traffic. He mentioned the potential to submit a form would be a unilateral decision, as long as it had an equilibrium across the various high priority stakeholders.

Elijah Morgan mentioned that there needs to be involvement of the EMS services into the conversation due to the characteristics of their vehicles.

Mayor Lucas Herring seconded the input of the City EMS services.

- b. Transportation Planning
 - i. Chair Michael Hellein presented a brief overview of the City's City Plan. Stating that he is not proud of this plan. Chair went over the three main

aspects of the plan Merchants Row, Summer St, and the Municipal Plan. Chair listed the following as projects listed in the plan; increased pedestrian traffic, working with GMTA to increase and improve bus stops, complete streets policy, advise street standards, access management, develop city wide bike paths, complete bike path construction, and add a traffic circle.

c. Hill St Presentation

- i. Jake Hemmerick presented a presentation on the Hill St traffic situation. The presentation was compiled of various directly and indirectly relevant statistics on traffic. The presentation covered neighborhood concerns, daily conditions, quality of life, and traffic arrangement of the street.

Chair Michael Hellein agreed that the presentation appropriately encapsulates the situation on Hill St.

Joanne Reynolds seconded this. Noting that there should be a pilot for this street.

Bill Ahearn recognized that there is a balance of pop ups and the location that need to be taken into consideration. We can see the community's response and measure how to act from there.

d. Confirm Meeting Date

- i. December 15th, 2021

7. Roundtable

- a. Nothing was tabled.
- b. Jake Hemmerick noted that he will be taking notes in the next meeting and following meetings.
- c. Judy commented that there are concerns on people parking on the bike path.

Bill Ahearn responded with having Judy reach out the to the DPW for outreach in this.

8. Adjourn

- a. Jake Hemmerick Motions to adjourn.
- b. Joanne reynolds seconded.
- c. All in favor, no opposition.

DRAFT