

Barre City Transportation Advisory Committee
August 18, 2021, 6:30 PM
Barre City Council Chamber

Members present: Giuliano Cecchinelli, Michael Hellein, Jacob Hemmerick, Joshua Akers, Joanne Reynolds, Art Bombardier

City support staff: Bill Ahearn, Elijah Morgan, PD Deputy Chief Larry Eastman

Visitor(s): none

The meeting was called to order by Chair Giuliano Cecchinelli, at 6:46 pm.

Chair Cecchinelli noted that the new fiscal year meant that selection of officers needed to be completed again.

Chair ceded meeting moderation to William Ahearn for purposes of conducting nomination and election of officers. Nominations were opened.

Member Hemmerick nominated Michael Hellein for Chair, seconded by member Reynolds. No further nomination was made. Member Hellein was unanimously elected,

Member Bombardier nominated Giuliano Cecchinelli for Vice Chair, seconded by member Hemmerick. No further nomination was made. Member Cecchinelli was unanimously elected.

Discussion of the need for a Secretary concluded that as the City would supply staff to create minutes, none was needed.

The meeting moderation was turned over to Chair Hellein who conducted the rest of the meeting.

Adjustments to the agenda:

Request from Jake Hemmerick to add traffic calming (noting previous sites discussed) to the agenda. Vice Chair updated the Committee on the pending list. The request for discussion of traffic calming, truck routes and overall planning was tabled for a future agenda. Chair Hellein committed that he will get this cumulative list in advance of the next meeting.

Old business:

- 1) Speed Table Candidates - PW Director Ahearn restated the City's desire to install 6 speed tables for trial purposes continues. Four have been installed one each on Allen St, Ayers St, Circle St and Merchant St. There are two additional candidates for the TAC to consider so that they can be installed this year. River St in the vicinity of number 120 or

Elijah Morgan, WEA

121 and Beckley St in the vicinity of number 95. It was also noted that Seminary St in the vicinity of Shurtleff and Thurston Place(s) is approved for a speed hump as noted at the previous meeting.

Committee members asked about the timing of the installations. A rough estimate of prior to October 1, 2021 was given. The TAC expressed support for the proposed locations. TAC opinion on the target implementation dates for the speed tables and humps was sought – and determined to be in-place by 10/1. Josh Akers moved to proceed with the speed tables, seconded by Giuliano Cecchinelli. Motion carried.

2) Traffic Calming (pop-ups)

Bill inquired about the pop-up timespan and the length of the data collection. The Committee was reminded of the Local Motion traffic study on North Seminary and Mill St, where we received valuable feedback on pedestrian refuges. The City of Barre can get a neighborhood opinion via web survey on the pop-ups, along with leafleting the affected neighborhoods as noted above with speed control devices. Typically, there is a 2-6 months minimum on the timespan of the popup, they are not typically designed for winter travel.

The City will be planning on using a thinner paint application that would be gone by December. Installation of the popup would be from September to November. The inside lane southbound cannot make travel on this route without crossover. On the Northbound lane, the rear wheels will be on the centerline not over.

Related issues: Legal results of the City disregarding the MUTCD (tabled), Crosswalks painting, (tabled).

New business:

3) City streets weight limit

The TAC discussed the establishment of reduced weight limits on some City Streets. Concerns cited were pavement damage, noise, hazards and air quality. Weight limits are important to the City's street rehabilitation program. 2.5 inches of pavement is adequate for areas that with state weight limits are on lower traffic counts such as residential developments. Thicker pavements or reduced weight limits are required for high traffic streets in order to prevent pavement failure. Committee members agreed that we need to pursue a strategic plan for trucking but keeping the public need in mind.

Councilor Jake Hemmerick suggested the City to allocate ARPA funding to develop a comprehensive traffic calming and weight limits based on the road classifications from the municipal plan. Motion to seek financial support for the development of freight,

bicycle, pedestrian and traffic calming plans made by Jake Hemmerick, seconded by Art Bombardier. Motion carried

4) Deliberative sessions

- a. Adding deliberative sessions to the meetings.
 - i. Bill had asked Vice-chair Cecchinelli to introduce these, ie., taking reflection time on certain issues to promote unbiased decisions.
 - ii. Jake has the concern that they will not be public sessions but understands that there needs to be an introduction in one meeting with a decision in the following meeting would be beneficial.
 - iii. Josh agrees that having a two-step solution in place where we can have our inductions and decisions made independently on a case-by-case basis is a smart choice.
 - iv. Chair Michael does not think that we can have deliberative sessions, however, giving more pre-context is something that will benefit us.

5) Ayers St

- i. Bill is proposing that we reconfigure 802 Coffee's parking situation to allow for more parking on their property. Spaulding will be granted three spaces that will be utilized by residents. Bill can go to the parking committee and could do permits for this, but he is trying to use the street space for the public. The police department's closest meter is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from this area.
- ii. No motion is required on this item.

6) Welcome Josh Akers

Josh Aker a resident of Seminary St joined the committee for its first meeting after being appointed by the City Council. Josh noted the importance of helping thorough participation and his excitement to add his input to TAC decisions.

7) Confirmation of next meeting date

- a. September 15th, 2021
- b. The meeting date is confirmed.

8) Round table

- a. Jake Hemmerick shares that on Wednesday the 29th at 2 pm there is a meeting All in for Barre regarding transportation issues at 39 Washington St
- b. Art Bombardier mentioned the signs should be taken down that are in Washington to Prospect St. Bill notes that the signs are there and will be removed.

9) Adjourn