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TOWN OF BURLINGTON
Transportation Study Committee (TSC) Minutes

February 17, 2021

Call the Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm via Webex

Voting Members Present: Millie Nash (MN), Jen Gelinas (JG), David VanCamp (DVC), Patricia O'Brien (POB), Eileen Sickler (ES), Myrna Saltman (MS)

Non-Voting Members Present: John Strauss (JS), DPW Superintendent, John Sanchez (JSDPW)

1. Guest Comments/Observations

- JSDPW mentioned that the town does not have centers thereby making public transportation routing and access more challenging than other towns
- He also noted that while cars are not going away, there has been more demand for proper sidewalks
- PO asked if all the projects go through Capital Budgets as well as if the projects are flexible and can change midway through the project. His answer was yes to both queries
- ES asked about grants and JSDPW said that in the last few years the town spent \$1m in energy related costs of which \$850k was from various grants. Another large grant resulted from the towns of Bedford, Lexington and Burlington working together for the MWRA grant exceeding \$3m
- JSDPW in response to traffic congestion mentioned the adaptive technology implemented in the year 2019. This technology senses traffic volumes at each of the 27 intersections and changes those lights accordingly to address the effect of congestion.
- DVC asked about bike lanes. JSDPW responded that while there was some interest in it, there was not a big push from the residents. Also, the roads overall are too narrow to allow bike lanes and does not believe it is feasible
- PO asked about Lyft funding. He said there is approximately \$100k in next years' budget for this program. ES asked him to explain how this was determined as there was \$4k spent in the year 2020. He explained there were about 15,000 rides on the BLine for which the Lyft program is serving as a replacement of sorts Budget of \$100k assumes the town pays an average, \$7 per ride, with 15,000 rides.
- JS asked why some pavements were non-contiguous. JSDPW said that building pavements over/through private property, culverts and the like required more money than the town wants to pay. The extra money required for buying private property for public use and engineering labor in addressing issues like culverts is deemed not practical.
- ES asked if the new pavement on Terrace Hall would exceed the budgeted funds. This amount includes \$120k that Town Meeting authorized for the project. Since receiving the almost \$300k grant from the Shared-Winter Streets program, it is possible the \$120k will be returned to the General Fund.
- DVC inquired about coordination among departments re: sidewalk clearing of snow and ice. JSDPW answered that engineering and if appropriate, police are included. DVC suggested the town create a hotline that residents can call for sidewalks that are in dangerous condition.

2. General Discussion

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- JG notified the group there is a meeting of the Middlesex 3 group on February 25th to discuss the MBTA cuts
- JG said we have received 175 responses to the questionnaire. We agreed that by March 1 we will have the bulk of the responses and can start using the statistics in our final report.

3. Assignment

- ES will remind Bob Cunha to attend our February 24th meeting as well as contacting Steve Morin to appear on March 3rd as he was not at tonight's meeting. MS will contact Brendon Egan and MN will contact Chris Hannifin for their appearances at our March 3rd meeting.

4. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date/Time

- The meeting adjourned at 9:12 with all in favor
- Next meeting date is Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 7 pm via Webex

*Respectfully Submitted,
Eileen Sickler, Recording Secretary*

Approved: Unanimously, February 24, 2021