



## Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes January 20, 2026

Approved March 3, 2026

### 0. Call to Order

- a. Called to order at 9:35 am
- b. Attendees
  - i. TAC Present: Nick Pappas (chaired meeting ), Mark Gailus (by phone), Marianna Hill (by Zoom), Ellen Quackenbush, Dan Schrage, Phil Posner
  - ii. Community Development Director: Alyssa Sandoval
  - iii. PWC liaison: Andrea Solomon

### 1. Approve minutes

Dec 9<sup>th</sup> minutes are being finalized by Rebecca Woodward

### 2. STANTEC update—Alyssa Sandoval

100 people attended the in-person forums and 229 comments were provided online. Highlights included:

- Add Transportation Planner to its staff
- Invest in the bike network to connect neighborhoods to commercial centers and BFRT to reformatory Branch Trail
- Use traffic calming to reduce speeds
- Improve MBTA service
- Add local transit options
- Focus on pedestrian safety

Draft report will be completed within a few months

STANTEC will hold one more public forum

- TAC meeting Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 9:30am
- Alan Cathcart and Steve Dookran will attend and present the roadway safety rankings (for \$5 million budgeted for safety)

Alyssa noted that she forwarded an email from Steve Dookran, Town Engineer, on improvement to accommodate bicycle safety at the Baker Ave and Rt 62 intersection

3. Draft TAC skills for Karrie LaFleur—Nick Pappas

TAC reviewed the key skills for Karrie LaFleur to consider when recruiting TAC members

- Add notes

4. Discussion of “all aspects of motor speeds” in town

TAC reviewed the history of setting and posting speed limits in town

- “Speed zoning,” established in the 1940s/1950s to optimize car traffic flow, set speeds at 85% of the measured speed. Increased bike/pedestrian traffic creates conflict and safety issues with speeds optimized for cars.
- 8 years ago, the Selectboard used MA Chapter 90 to set the townwide speed limit at 25 MPH “in thickly settled area” unless otherwise posted. One result was a proliferation of often inconsistent speed limit signs within a short length of road, causing confusion and potentially reducing motorist compliance
- Other towns, such as Newburyport and Andover, set strict 25 MPH speed limits on all but major roads, supplemented by traffic calming changes
- Phil volunteered to write a proposal to the Selectboard using Old Marlboro Road, from the town border with Sudbury to the BFRT junction, as a case study to test replacing speed zoning with more logical speed limits and potentially considering temporary traffic calming measures. The case study would include before and after speed measurements
- Ellen volunteered to investigate current state laws on automated enforcement, with the idea of considering this solution on the Concord Middle School section of Old Marlboro Road.
- One member suggested obtaining a GIS map of speed limit signs in town. The police may have this information

5. Public comments

Cynthia Katz/40 Conant St

- Conant St is one of the four streets in town with a heavy vehicle exclusion. Signage should be on the feeder streets (Lawsbrook Road and Rt62), not on Conant St. Signage not effective and not enforced. No designated truck routes in town.
- Jacobs Study is being ignored
- No sure who “owns” this problem and what group/committee/board to work with

Gina Stark/512 Thoreau St

- Signage not effective; need traffic calming

Nate Perry/362 Bedford ST

- STANTEC study taking too long
- Need to knock down committee/department silos
- Another key TAC skill is overall knowledge of Concord—geography, schools, trails, etc

Jeff Collins/55 Highland St

- Skills set should always be reviewed, with the goal of assuring a mix of all the skills needed

Dan Stapleton/40 Conant St

- Add traffic volume that exceeds the design capacity of a road's design to transportation management goals

Betsy Olsson/1741Wedgewood Common

- Mothers Out Front is developing a Town Meeting warrant to require a committee safety permit to prioritize the safety of the most vulnerable users

Karen Smith/Upland Road

- Encouraged prioritizing signage to reduce cut-through
- Use findings of 2019 Jacobs study

Meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am