



Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes February 17, 2026

1. Call to Order

- a. Called to order at 9:31 am
- b. Attendees
 - i. TAC Present: Mark Gailus, Marianna Hill, Nick Pappas, Phil Posner, Ellen Quackenbush, Dan Schrage, and Rebecca Woodward
 - ii. TAC Not Present: none
 - iii. Community Development Director: Alyssa Sandoval
 - iv. Select Board Liaison: Paul Boehm

2. Approve minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

3. Chair remarks

Climate Action Committee working on Climate Action resiliency plan. Mobility section has Public Transit as one of the 3 key initiatives under Mobility. Mark asked TAC members to look that over so that TAC can discuss that section.

4. STANTEC presentation of Road Safety Project Ranking Project

Public Works Director Alan Cathcart introduced a presentation by Stantec. Alan noted that the public has provided much input on safety needs. The Traffic Management Group (TMG) has compiled a list of road safety improvements that have been collected over several years. Stantec has taken that list and developed a tool to rank items into a prioritized list for community discussion. The town will be able to use this tool in the future.

Bill Scarpetti and Liza Cohen of Stantec gave a brief presentation. The tool is similar to what they have done for other towns in MA.

The Concord list contains 134 projects that have not been started or completed. Stantec estimates an approximate cost of \$27.3M to do all of them. At this point the town has budgeted \$2.5M to be spent over the next 5 years on projects of this nature.

Three criteria were used for ranking possible projects

Infrastructure: Existing infrastructure is non-compliant or unsafe

People: vulnerable populations and requests from the public

Places: Proximity to important locations: schools, train stations, business districts, hospitals.

Ellen Quackenbush noted that this approach looks at specific locations rather than transportation corridors. It was stated that corridors would be addressed in the pending Concord Transportation Strategy.

It was noted that the town would be able to use the ranking tool in future years.

Rebecca Woodward asked that the ranking tool methodology be made available so that residents could understand how the ranking was done. Ms. Woodward commented that the ranking tool as it stands is not really a usable tool for evaluation of new projects going forward, because -- for example -- the people score is based in part on the input from particular past workshops and surveys but does not include a mechanism to gather and include equivalent types of public input to utilize for ranking newly identified projects going forward into the future.

Alan Cathcart expects we will get the methodology from Stantec and make it visible.

It was noted that cost is not considered by the ranking process.

New requests will be put on the list

It was suggested that someone create a FAQ addressing common questions, such as How was the list created? How can I submit a request for a safety project?

Alan Cathcart pointed out that there should be regular joint meetings (TAC, PWC, Select Board) at least annually to review plans and any issues regarding the overall roads and transportation program. This should mesh with the annual PWC review of the Roads Program. Given where we are in the process, there should be a meeting soon.

Alan noted that some current requests seem both important and costly. It may be appropriate to go to town meeting to ask for additional funding for large projects that are clearly beyond the scope of the current 5 year Roads Program.

Nick Pappas pointed out that Public Safety was the impetus for the development of the ranking tool, but it was not clear from the presentation how much weight safety was given in the ranking process. When is safety quantified in evaluating a request? How is it taken into account in ranking? which projects have the highest safety benefit?

Josh Burgel: The tool doesn't have a policy aspect (e.g. is the complete streets policy taken into account in ranking?); no feedback provision to improve the process; no detail available on this year's projects (e.g. drawings)

Linda Nieman: static, not a process. Safety aspect of projects not clear; Safety at top, then other stuff like connectivity.

Paul Boehm: We are seeing movement on things that have been requested with urgency for a while. Is it sustainable or static? Need to make sure it is sustainable and not a one-time thing. TAC needs to figure out the public input part of this.

End of discussion of the ranking tool.

5. Additional transportation updates from Community Development Director, Alyssa Sandoval
Alyssa Sandoval is working with Liza Cohen of Stantec on a Transportation Strategy and expect they to finish it in May. Need to decide who would be involved in the presentation (e.g. other boards and committees). Mark Gailus commented that TAC would like to have time to study the plan before the general meeting. No need for feedback and plan modifications at that time. Public input that was used in development of the Transportation Strategy is being posted to the website
Concord has been invited to an MAPC-facilitated meeting of staff from Concord, Maynard, Acton, Sudbury, and Littleton on 2/24. Transportation needs assessment.

Melanie and Alyssa have been trying to document speed limits in town and have found conflicting data. For instance, there are multiple published versions of the Concord speed regulations.

The Transportation Strategy will be published after the first instance of using the tool presented earlier today. The strategy will be used next year in the second application of the prioritization tool.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am

Minutes approved on: 3/3/26