

Community Path Implementation Advisory Committee

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Minutes of August 12, 2015 Meeting

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Location: Belmont Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 6 PM

Attending: CPIAC members R. Leino, M. Cicalese, B. Burke & V. Stanton; representing the School Committee: L. Graham; and resident C. Caterino.

The minutes of the July 22, 2015 meeting were approved.

During the General Updates Mr. Leino suggested the committee discuss how to approach the availability of \$100,000 in state funding for a feasibility study, in addition to the \$100,000 appropriated by Town Meeting in November 2014. Mr. Stanton suggested that the committee write a thank you letter to State Representative Dave Rogers, who secured the state funding and Mr. Leino agreed to write a thank you letter.

Mr. Stanton said the committee could accomplish its work more efficiently by spending enough of the total funds (up to \$200,000) to complete an adequate feasibility study, rather than phased feasibility studies (with funding for future work uncertain). He recommended the committee initially spend the \$100,000 from the state, then however much of the town appropriation was necessary. That way any unspent town funds would revert to free cash (available for other projects) in a future year.

The scope of the feasibility study was discussed. Ms. Graham noted that at the July 22, 2015 meeting Mr. Baghdady had suggested that some secondary routes considered by CPAC (not among the most highly recommended routes) should be evaluated in the feasibility study (including, for example, Concord Avenue). Mr. Leino noted that he viewed that as a change to the committee's initial charge and wanted further clarification from the Selectmen on that point. Mr. Stanton mentioned that other secondary route segments – for example along the Fitchburg Line behind Clark Lane – should perhaps also be further evaluated in light of the challenges to CPAC recommended routes. He noted that some of the MassDOT/MBTA designs for the community path flanking the Green Line Extension showed as little as 8 feet separating the center of the Green Line track from the community path.

Mr. Leino suggested that in shaping the RFP for a feasibility study the committee should be aware of the MassDOT / Boston MPO evaluation criteria for transportation projects in general, and projects funded via federal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funds in particular. Mr. Leino distributed multiple documents from the MassDOT and Boston MPO websites including "TIP Evaluation Criteria," "Transportation Improvement Program – Development," "FFYs 2016-19 TIP Universe of Highway Projects – Evaluation Results," as well as MassDOT project need, project initiation, and 25% design forms. The TIP Evaluation Criteria include factors such as Environment and Climate Change (16% weighting) and Environmental Justice (6.5%) that the committee has not spent much time discussing.

Mr. Leino left at 7 PM. Other committee members continued to discuss path evaluation criteria until 7:25 when the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Secretary: V. Stanton