

Traffic Advisory Committee minutes for Thursday, June 2, 2005.

In attendance: M.J. Frisoli, T. Turner, L. Nickens, T. Riley, A. Masciari, T. Olson.

Absent: P. Curro.

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Also attending; G. Clancy, Sgt. Hamilton, BSC Group representatives C Kalauskas, P. Brier, Marybeth Murphy.

7:09 p.m. Meeting called to order

(7:09 p.m.) MF introduced the BSC Group consultants who will be working with the TAC and the OCD on the Belmont-Trapelo Corridor project (BTC).

(7:13 p.m.) C. Kalauskas gave the committee a brief overview of the timetable for the BTC. The application to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) of the MPO must be completed prior to approval of state/federal funding that will be required for constructing the project. An ambitious deadline to be met will come up in March 2006; much work will be required to meet that deadline. P. Breire elaborated on the details of the preliminary timetable for the project design phase, outlining the amount of time to complete the 25% design, public hearing, and 75% design phases. If all goes according to plan, the construction could begin in spring 2009.

The State Project Evaluation Criteria were distributed. The criteria, established by MassHighway, include such items as roadway condition, effect on mobility, safety, cost effectiveness, etc. This document will be available on the TAC web page at: www.town.belmont.ma.us

BSC has drafted a tentative schedule for the project between June and October 2005. The schedule includes 18 aspects of the project development, leading up to the Project Review Committee (PRC) meeting in mid-October. First design meeting before TAC is scheduled for the week of July 4. Four meetings are scheduled with TAC and various committees within the town. The tentative dates for these meetings will be July 7, July 19, August 2, August 16. In early September, BSC will meet with TAC on a Design Review that will include concepts for the entire corridor, followed within two weeks by design refinement and a final TAC meeting to select a preferred concept to recommend to the BoS for approval. This preliminary design will be presented to the PRC in October.

(8:21 p.m.) CK discussed a new design guidebook that has been developed by the Romney Administration to give greater flexibility to roadway design. A preliminary draft will be made available in September 2006, although CK stated that the timetable for the guidebook is somewhat behind schedule.

(8:29 p.m.) MM presented some ideas for aesthetic treatments of the BTC. Low-interest loans and grants are available to implement these types of improvements. Such improvements include street trees, pavement treatments, street furniture, lighting, etc.

(8:51 p.m.) PB gave TAC an overview of the engineering principles guiding the design process. The width of the roadway in the BTC is somewhat intermediate, in that it is too wide for a two-lane usage, but not quite wide enough for four lanes. This is further constrained by the modern MassHighway requirement that bicycle accommodations be made in the roadway right-of-way. PB presented the intersection at Benton Sq. (Belmont and Trapelo at Pine St.) as an example of the challenges confronting the designs.

(9:25) Administrative Matters: TAC minutes from May 2005. Minutes for the TAC meetings of May 5 and May 12, 2005 were accepted as written. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Meeting Adjourned 9:26 p.m.