

Needham Transportation Committee

Minutes of May 23, 2017 Meeting
(7:30pm – 8:47 pm in the Highland Room of Needham Town Hall)

Members in attendance: Steve McKnight (Chair), Justin McCullen (Secretary) Richard Creem, Duncan Allen, David Montgomery. Also in attendance: Anne Weinstein, district office head for Rep. Garlick.

7:30 Call to order

1) Minutes of November 10th 2016 meeting

The minutes were read and accepted unanimously with no abstentions with 2 small revisions.

2) Current on-time schedule issues for the MBTA commuter rail

D. Allen indicates that all things considered, the on time performance is marginally better. R. Creem indicated that operational improvements have been noted. S. McKnight brought up that the 8:02am was added and noted thanks for D. Garlick's office. S. McKnight also brought up the number of coaches on the 7:32am train and it was noted there has been some inconsistency in the number of coaches. **ACTION: Continue to monitor on time performance, draft letter to MBTA acknowledging improved service and urge faster notification to ridership of delays and dropped trains.**

3) Saturday service for MBTA commuter rail

S McKnight noted that Saturday Service suspension has been discussed by MBTA. R. Creem noted that the project to install Positive Train Control (PTC) on the Needham Line has been tentatively scheduled for Saturdays in late Fall 2017. D Allen noted that most new commuter train systems in North America do not run on Saturdays. D Montgomery noted that Saturday service is not just about convenience of the riders, but the overall environmental impact of the service. **ACTION: D. Allen will research the possible schedule of a bus from Needham to the Dedham Corporate Center commuter rail station as a fill-in Saturday service as preparation for a letter to MBTA expressing the importance of Saturday service to the residents of the Needham Line and our interest in a pilot program of alternate modes of public transportation for Saturdays during PTC project.**

4) Repair and maintenance of commuter rail platforms in Needham

Committee had a discussion around condition of platforms. S. McKnight contacted Kate Fitzpatrick to call attention of town to the condition of platforms. R. Creem noted the heaves and cracking of platforms. The committee considered whether to draft a letter about these conditions to the MBTA/Keolis. Rick Merson, Needham's Director of Public Works, is willing to assess the physical state of the platforms if requested by the Selectmen or the Town Manager. All members noted safety and ADA compliance issues **ACTION: S. McKnight will contact Town Manager to see if the Department of Public Works can assess the physical state of the platforms and help recommend next steps.**

5) Possible pedestrian cross-walk at Intersection of West St. and Hillside Ave. near Needham Heights station

The committee had a discussion about advocating for an additional crosswalk near the Needham Heights commuter rail station. R Creem mentioned the crosswalk that was removed at Needham Center. J. McCullen filled committee in on history of the new traffic light and removal of crosswalk at Needham Center which attracted extensive discussion at Town Meeting **Action: No formal TC action. Continue to monitor and speak with the Traffic Management Advisory Committee about feasibility of crosswalk in Needham Heights.**

6) Other Business

- a) Dave Montgomery brought up the Needham Street /Highland Ave project that now has been delayed by about a year. He noted significant dissatisfaction of timeframe of delay with project and subsequent turnover of road to municipal control. **Action: Information only to committee**
- b) R. Creem: Appt to Perm PUB building Committee. **Action: Information only**
- c) Conflict of Interest training renewal. **Action: All committee members are reminded to take Conflict of interest training.**

Next Meeting will be set for October unless another meeting is warranted.

8:47 Adjournment

Respectively Submitted,
Justin McCullen, Secretary