

**Draft Minutes
Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee
February 17, 2009**

Attendance: Jane Ashby, Peter Lillya, Fran VanTreese, Helene Ver Eecke, Andrew Melnechuk, Glenn Barrington, Karen Kowles, Stephanie O'Keefe Walter Wolnik

Jane opened the meeting at 8:45 in the First Floor Meeting Room of Town Hall.

Glenn reported that the overall ridership was up 8.5%. The 32 bus ridership had increased more than 30%. There has been a steady increase in the route 32 ridership and it looks like the total may be over 35,000 in FY09.

Peter asked about curb heights for buses for accessibility. Glenn reported that the curbs should be four inches, which is correct for wheel chair users and allows the buses to get close enough to the curb to use the ramp.

Andrew asked about plowing the bus stops. Glenn reported that UMass transit clears the campus stops and then moves out to the others.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the January 6th subcommittee meeting. Peter moved they be approved with the addition of the memo text. Andrew seconded. Fran abstained. The motion passed.

Karen moved approval of the December 16, 2008 minutes. Fran seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Peter moved approval of the January 21, 2009 minutes as corrected. Andrew seconded. Four voted in favor. Karen and Andrew abstained. The motion passed.

Karen agreed to contact Dave Ziomek to arrange for him to attend a meeting to discuss the list of proposed walking trails that had been developed by the PTBC in 2005.

Fran presented the survey of bike racks in town and proposed locations for additional racks that she and Rob Kusner did. Jane requested a subcommittee meeting to discuss priority rack locations. The subcommittee will meet February 26th at 9:00 a.m. Stephanie suggested having the existing bike parking put on the Town GIS maps.

Peter reported on the Design Review Board. The design at Pomeroy Village Center is now close to final. The DRB rejected the suggestion of painting the cross walks, but they want reflective paint with the concrete and brick cross walks. The DRB agreed not to have a bus shelter on the west side of West Street. They also agreed with the PTBC signaling recommendation. There will be turning lanes in the plan. They also want a 10 foot wide multi-use pathway through the village center.

Andrew said there was a need for reflective pedestrian signs downtown. Jane asked that the committee discuss pedestrian safety at another meeting.

Jane brought up the question of the size of the PBTC. Currently, a quorum is 5 members with nine slots, but the committee only has 6 appointed members now. After a discussion, Peter moved that the PTBC request the Select Board to authorize a reduction of the PTBC membership from 9 to 7 members. Fran seconded. 5 voted in favor. Andrew abstained.

The next meeting will be March, 24, 2009 at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran VanTreese