

Natick Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Virtual Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026
7:00 PM

Members Present

- Ed Doherty, Chair
- Joanna Carey, Vice Chair
- Sarah Ward
- Gil Yaker
- Matt Page

Members Absent

- Abby Brown

Town Staff Present

- Morgan Griffiths, Transportation & Economic Development Planner

Members of the Public Present

- Liam and Salma, students from Natick High School

Public Speak

- Salma and Liam introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

- The Committee voted on the minutes from its meeting on December 9th, 2025.
 - Ed Doherty, Joanna Carey, Gil Yaker, Sarah Ward, and Matt Page voted to approve the minutes.
 - The minutes were approved.

Review and Vote on 2026 Meeting Schedule

- The Committee reviewed the TAC's 2026 Meeting Schedule and voted on its approval.
 - Ed Doherty, Joanna Carey, Gil Yaker, Sarah Ward, and Matt Page voted to approve the schedule.
 - The schedule was approved.

Officer Positions Discussion

- Morgan Griffiths described the Committee's three officer positions (Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary) and asked the Committee what the term length of each should be.
- Ed Doherty stated that a two-year term limit sounded good and that he was happy to stay on as Chair for one more year.
- Joanna Carey agreed, stating that she could continue as Vice Chair for the next year
- Morgan Griffiths agreed to continue acting as the Secretary for the Committee.

- Members agreed that two-year term limits sounded good, meaning that officer position elections will next be held at the beginning of 2027.
- Ed Doherty asked how the Town advertises committee vacancies.
 - Morgan Griffiths responded that the Select Board will periodically advertise vacancies, and that interested folks can apply on the Town website. He also said he would ask Town Administration what else it does to advertise vacancies.
 - Ed Doherty encouraged committee members to recruit potential candidates.

Review and Vote on 2025 Annual Report

- The Committee reviewed the draft of its 2025 Annual Report.
- Matt Page suggested changing wording in the draft to acknowledge that the Committee had at least one meeting in 2025 during which a quorum was not present.
- The Committee voted to approve the draft as amended with Matt Page's suggested change.
 - Ed Doherty, Joanna Carey, Gil Yaker, Sarah Ward, and Matt Page voted to approve the Annual Report.
 - The Annual Report was approved.
- Morgan Griffiths stated he would send the final version of the report to Ed Doherty, who could then send it to Town Administration.

Review and Vote on MassTrails Grant Letter of Support

- Morgan Griffiths presented on the MBTA's extension of the Cochituate Rail Trail to Natick Center Station and the Town's desire to create a ramp connecting the Rail Trail to North Main Street, stating that the Town's original design is currently financially infeasible, and it would like to study potential alternatives.
- Morgan Griffiths asked the Committee if it would be willing to sign a letter in support of the Town's MassTrails grant application to fund this alternatives study.
- Sarah Ward asked for clarification about the location of environmental justice (EJ) communities and crowding concerns at Natick Center Station.
 - Morgan Griffiths responded that the map of EJ communities had changed recently, and the project area was now within an EJ community. He also stated that separating rail trail users from station users would help improve flow, especially for cyclists.
- Gil Yaker asked if the grant would be used to fund exploratory work, which Morgan Griffiths confirmed.
- Liam asked what the grant money would be used for, specifically, if the Town were to receive it.
 - Morgan Griffiths explained that the funding would be used to hire a consultant who would identify possible alternative connections between the Rail Trail and North Main Street and then analyze them to provide recommendations on the best course of action to pursue.
- The Committee voted to approve signing a letter of support for the grant application.
 - Ed Doherty, Joanna Carey, Gil Yaker, Sarah Ward, and Matt Page voted to approve signing the letter of support.

- The letter of support was approved.
- Morgan Griffiths stated he would send the letter to Ed Doherty for his signature.

2026 Goals Discussion

- The Committee began its discussion of goals for the upcoming year.
- Ed Doherty suggested focusing on traffic calming measures, noting that Natick lags behind neighboring Towns. He also advocated for continuing to meet with the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority.
- Joanna Carey expressed continued concern about speed limit enforcement.
- Matt Page proposed continuing to advocate for the development of a bicycle and pedestrian plan for the Town.
 - Gil Yaker agreed, suggesting that the Town map out current and planned bike routes.
- Joanna Carey raised concerns about traffic flow, particularly along Route 9 and on Speen Street.
- Morgan Griffiths promised to compile and share notes from this conversation, and to send around former member Josh Ostroff's previous memo on transportation policies.
- The committee agreed to continue goal discussion at its February meeting.

Other TAC Business

- Morgan Griffiths stated that the Town will be pausing its updates to rate and time limits for parking in Natick Center, but would be continuing with its other changes.
- Ed Doherty noted a decrease in commuter parking demand in Natick Center over the past few years, while Matt Page shared that parking demand at the West Natick train station remains high.

Adjournment