

Acton Area MinuteVan and CrossTown Connect Recent History:

Jan. 2005 United Way forum on transportation moved local leaders to examine unmet transportation needs.

2006 Commuter forum at Acton Town Hall, well attended, to explore garage, carpool, and shuttle options for rail station

April 2006 Rep. of Acton attended a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) two-day course in Bedford, MA: Flexible Community Transit Services: Planning, Design and Technology. Town made good contacts with Boston MPO and MAPC staff at this course who continued to advise Acton for years following.

2006-2007 MAPC encourages Town to apply for Suburban Mobility funding to start shuttle

June 2007 Town Transportation Forum- very well attended by reps from government, business, NGO's, schools, volunteer committees

August 2007- Central Transportation Planning Staff presented Acton with a report on transit needs-- Rob Guptill.

April 2008- Town approved \$20,000 to hire a Transportation Planner to assist us with Suburban Mobility Application

July 2008- Town applied for and received \$10k in New Freedom funds for a taxi voucher program to back up the paratransit (has \$10k town match, transportation coordinator will institute in 2011)

Fall, 2008- Online trip and transportation need survey, approximately 1000 respondents from Acton

and some neighboring towns; paper questionnaire to Acton-Boxborough students, approximately 3000 respondents.

April 2009 --Applied for Year 1 Suburban Mobility funds.

April 2009 Town Meeting voted the town match for Year 1 Suburban Mobility funds.

June 09 Town was awarded the Year 1 funding.

Aug. - Oct. 09 put out rfp and identified Transaction Associates as a good company to hire

2009- DOT reorganization

Spring, 2009- Met with town staff, including COA, to determine best ways to implement the new service. Intern worked in planning department to plan use of New Freedom taxi voucher grant. That intern pointed out the following conference.

October 2009- Town participated with Concord, Boxborough, and Maynard in Massachusetts Institute for Transportation Coordination- nine people from four towns, including Selectmen, planners, chamber of commerce, members of disability and transportation committees.

2010- Stow and Littleton joined the Maynard, Acton, Concord and Boxborough in monthly regional transportation discussions called "MinuteVan Regional," also attended by representatives from business and planning community.

2010- Suburban Mobility program brought into a combined program: Clean Air and Mobility, with larger geographic area, more types of applications under same funding program.

April 2010- Representative from Town attended FTA two-day course in Coordinated Mobility in Providence, RI

Spring 2010- Submitted letter of application for Year 2 Clean Air and Mobility funding

Spring 2010- DOT and Town signed contract for Year 1

June 2010 Transaction Associates hired for Transportation Coordinator and to be vendor to provide service

Summer 2010 Transaction Associates tests out Rail Shuttle

Sept. 2010 Rail shuttle begins service.

Late Sept. 2010 Dial-a-Ride begins service.

Sept. 2010 to present, services are refined.

Nov. 2011 - added permissions so youth can ride

December 2010- Representative from Town attended Community Transportation of America course in Transportation Solutions Coordination

Late 2010 or early 2011, asked CLAMP (Clean Air...) committee if it was possible to increase our Year 2 request. They said we would have to resubmit an amended application

Jan. 31, 2011 applied for amended Y2 and also for Y3, misunderstanding that we had not been approved for Y2 in 2010 (decision had been postponed)

September 2010- May 2011 Ridership steadily increasing.

March 2011- Meeting with Transportation Coordinator and Superintendent of Schools to plan outreach to parents and students including Tagline Contest (ending May 27, 2011)

Mar. 10, 2011- Indications that Clean Air and Mobility committee not all in consensus to support Year 2 funding.

Mar. to June, 2011- Clean Air and Mobility Committee recommends funding of rail shuttle for year 2 but not dial-a-ride portion. Suggest Acton look at New Freedom or JARC funding for dial-a-ride when those applications are next called for. June, 2011- comment period extended, MPO hasn't yet made its final decision on Clean Air and Mobility so public comment is welcome at publicinformation@bostonmpo.org .

2012- First year application to Governor Patrick's Community Innovation Challenge Grant program, for programs that use regional cooperation to save money or improve efficiency. Received \$184,000 and our project was the only one about transportation and the only one that included a private business. This grant program led to the creation of the public-private Transportation Management Association called CrossTown Connect.

2013- Received \$60,000 from second year application to CIC grant program.

2014- Applied for a grant from the CIC program but before decisions were made, the program was cut by Governor Baker.

2015- Acton, Maynard, Westford, Littleton, and Boxborough enter a Community Compact for CrossTown Connect. At the 2016 Mass. Municipal Association conference, both Lieutenant Governor Karen Polito and Governor Baker tout the Community Compact program and Polito specifically mentions CrossTown Connect.

November, 2015- Cross Acton Transit, CAT Bus, is launched: a fixed route bus from 8 am to 6 pm, circulating in Acton from Avalon to South Acton.

Jan. 29, 2016- Ribbon-Cutting for the CAT Bus.

Jan. 20, 2016- Ribbon-Cutting for the new South Acton MBTA Rail Station, including handicap accessibility, double tracks, and elevators.

July, 2016- CAT Bus becomes wheelchair accessible.

July, 2016- The start of Vehicle Sharing among the Towns of Maynard, Acton, Littleton, and Boxborough.

Fall, 2016- First Mile and Last Mile transportation designed, using Maynard state budget funding, if it stays in the budget; and using the FTA Community Transit grant to allow Council on Aging vans to be put into service for early morning and evening commuter trips to and from South Acton and Littleton stations.

2016, 2017- Conversations with Middlesex Community College about the limited transit options for students from the Acton area.

2017- Launch of Maynard-Acton Shuttle

2017- MAGIC region becomes an AARP Age-Friendly Region.

2018- Launch of two new rail shuttles: Westford-Littleton, and north part of Acton

2018- CrossTown Connect is designing and applying for funding for a pilot "Hybrid" Taxi/Van Private/Public Service that might help solve the evening, weekend, and long distance needs.

ACRONYMS:

Boston MPO Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (disburse federal transportation funds, includes CTPS)

COA Council on Aging

CTPS Central Transportation Planning Staff (of Boston MPO)

LRTA Lowell Regional Transit Authority

MAGIC Minuteman Advisory Group for Interlocal Coordination (13-town planning subregion, within MAPC)

MAPC Metropolitan Area Planning Council (plan, advise, sit on Board of Boston MPO)

MART Montachusett Regional Transit Authority

MBTA Mass. Bay Transit Authority

MVRTA Metrowest Regional Transit Authority