

Selectmen's Meeting  
Executive Office of Transportation, MART, MBTA, State Officials Round Table Work-Shop, re Ayer Parking  
Facility  
Great Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Town Hall, Main Street, Ayer, MA  
Friday, June 13, 2007

1:30p.m. Work-shop opened.

Present	Department
Gary J. Luca, Chairman	Ayer Board of Selectmen
Carolyn McCreary, Vice-Chair	Ayer Board of Selectmen
Cornelius F. Sullivan, Clerk	Ayer Board of Selectmen
Frank F. Maxant, Member	Ayer Board of Selectmen
Pauline Conley, Member	Ayer Board of Selectmen
Shaun Sukoski, Town Administrator	Ayer Board of Selectmen
Christopher Ryan, Director of Planning & Development	Town of Ayer-Community Development
Janet Lewis, Secretary	Ayer Selectmen's Office
Steven Woelfle, Planning Manager-Asst. Joanne Telegren	Executive Office of Transportation (EOT)
Ronald Morgan	MBTA
Mohammed Khan	MART Administrator
George Kahale	MRPC
Beth Falk	MRPC
Senator Pamela Resor	State Senator
Representative Robert Hargraves	Rep. 5 <sup>th</sup> District
Jane Black	5 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Local Media	Lowell Sun-Nashoba Publications-Cable

Light refreshment served prior to roundtable/work-shop with State Officials.

- Vice-Chairman Carolyn McCreary opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking all for coming and turned the floor over to Town Administrator Shaun Suhoski.
- Mr. Suhoski provided an overview of the Town's plans for additional parking (350 spaces) between the Rail Trail Lot and Central Ave. Mr. Suhoski reviewed the Town's downtown improvement plan which called for additional commuter parking, advising to the Town, the MBTA, and MART working toward funding options which resulted in the Federal award of \$3.15 million dollars in Dec. 04 with the State Legislator matching funds up to \$2million in the Transportation Bond Bill of 2006. The Town held a Charrette in May of 2007 where four proposed solutions were presented and the Hybrid solution gains consensus of the attendees which proposed two sites one at the rail trail and the other on Central Ave. The Board of Selectmen vote to endorse this Hybrid solution and authorize formal requests to access the Federal & State funds from Section 113 at FHWA to Section 5309 at FTA for MRPC. May 15, 2007 Town Meeting overwhelmingly passes supporting the Hybrid parking solution.
- Steven Woelfle-EOT advised the group to EOT needing more information/documentation before the funds can be transferred i.e. where the Town/Region is with the project. The next step would then be to determine what the project is about and what agencies need to be brought in. Mr. Woelfle advised the group to his not making the decision on the transfer nor could he offer a timeline. The Agencies concerns were how the project will fit with larger effort to improve the Fitchburg line, the location of any parking facility, the number of spaces it will have and how the motorist will access it.

- Mohammed Khan addressed concerns re improving the line and reduce commute time which is part of regional solution backed by Congressman Olver which originally had Ayer's stop consolidated with Shirley's into a Devens stop which has since cooled and Ayer's plans having no conflict with Olver's. Ayer's station is the largest in the region and there is no reason why Ayer should not become that regional station. Mr. Khan reported that Ayer's location is suitable with opportunities to acquire more land. The question before them is how commuters will cross Main Street.
- Senator Resor and Rep. Hargraves both speaking to need of Town for additional downtown parking witnessed growth both users of rail trail, commuters and urging the Executive Office of Transportation to transfer funds
- Mr. Woelfle opened the discussion for public comment-officials heard pro/cons of project.
- Resident Gerry Wood spoke to poor location designated for rail trail, traffic, construction concerns and need for W. Main Street site be looked at.
- Harry Zane spoke to that concept advising to Town's plan including a 2<sup>nd</sup> site. Mr. Khan advising to analyses of both being conducted, referring that area to architect. The final design will be the decision of the Selectmen. Zane advising to Town not wanting huge facility at the Rail Trail site.
- Selectman Conley advised to her not voting in favor of the site location which she stated was incomplete and rushed for fear of losing the funding. Larger issue for Town was keeping the train station. Commuters don't shop downtown Ayer, not opposed to Hybrid but felt there was a better solution.
- Selectman Sullivan speaking to need for transfer being economic engine for Town –people move/d here because of the train
- Selectman McCreary stated that Selectman Conley's position was not supported by other Selectmen advising to the Board's consistent support for additional downtown parking over the last three years and Town of Ayer having highest walkership in region. The vote at town meeting passing by 3-1 as proof of the community's support.
- June Black-5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Office speaking on behalf of District in support of the Town's Project encouraging State to take action to release funding i.e. good for the environment-Smart Growth initiative.
- Beth Falk, MART stated all of the above questions would be addressed that there is still a lot of work going on prior to grants being released for construction.
- Selectman McCreary closed the meeting by thanking all for their attendance, and taking this opportunity to again urge for support for the transfer of funds so that the town could begin project.

3:45p.m. Meeting adjourned.