



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7 Twin Circle Drive, Arlington, MA 02474

To: Board of Selectmen, Arlington, Massachusetts

From: Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Subject: Transportation Demand Management grant

Date: 14 July 2008

The Town recently received a grant to work with the tenants at the Parmenter School to reduce the number of cars that park all day in this very congested area. This grant is under a state program for Transportation Demand Management and was applied for under the auspices of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) is designed to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles on the road, and encourage walking, biking, carpooling, and use of public transit. Some of the tools of TDM include:

- Providing bike racks, showers, and lockers for employees

- Subsidizing T passes and encouraging the purchase of T passes pre-tax

- Matching potential carpoolers

- Providing an emergency ride home to anyone who usually carpools, but has an extenuating circumstance

- Providing preferential parking to carpoolers

- Charging drivers who commute alone the true cost of their "free" parking.

We will be working with MassRides to provide services such as carpool matching and emergency rides home, and for outreach and incentives. We met with them in June (Kevin O'Brien, Ed Starr, and Laura Wiener) and have a meeting scheduled with the two principals of the schools at Parmenter on July 11. We plan to launch a program with school staff in September. We see this as a pilot program that could be extended to the Central School, Town Hall, and the Library. Eventually we hope to encourage its use by other businesses in Arlington, both public and private.

With gas prices at a record high, this is a very good time to launch this effort. The potential benefits for the Town are many, including reduced pressure for parking, reduced traffic congestion, and cleaner air. If we are successful at reducing employee parking, there will be more parking available for customers and residents. It is a long term approach to better utilize the parking we have rather than adding parking, which is difficult and sometimes impossible.

Transportation Advisory Committee Members:

Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jean Clark, Lt. Paul Conroy, Susan Doctrow, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise,
Michael Rademacher, Scott Smith, Edward Starr, and Laura Wiener

Web site; www.tac.arlington.ma.us/