

Transportation Advisory Committee

Adopted April 27, 2021 by motion of Barre City Council

Purpose

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was created by the Barre City Council (per City Charter [24 App. V.S.A. ch. 1, § 307](#)) to provide advisory guidance for Council, associated boards, commissions and committees, and City staff regarding transportation-related decisions, including plan preparation & implementation, capital improvement program prioritization, policy & ordinance review, and other projects and interventions that impact travelways and multi-modal transportation services throughout the city. The TAC meets monthly, both responding to concerns and input from the public and working with staff and other committees toward better outcomes for the City's transportation infrastructure.

Role of Transportation

Right of ways, transit services, complete streets and other travelways connect residents of Barre and surrounding communities to the City's compact historic business district, but they also serve as regional connections for travelers passing through Barre, without a local destination or starting point. A [selection of data collected by VTrans](#) shows that a number of our streets serve more trips daily than the number of households in Barre City (3,983 in 2019, [U.S. Census](#)):

Street	Annual Average Daily Traffic (2018)
Main Street (Downtown)	15,900
North Main Street	10,600
South Main Street	12,100
Route 62	11,900
Washington Street	11,500
Hill Street	5,400
Maple Avenue	5,100
Summer Street	6,900

For comparison, I-89 between exits 7 and 8 served 23,900 daily trips over the same period.

Elm Street	5,800
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Barre City has a compelling public interest in regional and local traffic, and must balance the needs of regional through-traffic against the more primary and pre-requisite needs of the City's residents, landowners, and businesses upon which the sustainability of the system depends. That requires:

- A safe, pleasant, and competitively desirable environment for shopping, dining, recreation and other economic activities to support our downtown businesses
- Safe and livable neighborhoods without the danger and noise of speeding cars to increase the value of residential property
- Streets that expand transportation choice by encouraging public transit, walking and biking as transportation to reduce maintenance costs and support improved air quality
- Thoroughfares designed to reduce demand by the through-traffic that is detrimental to the City's general welfare, economy, environment

Transportation is a necessity, and Barre City will continue to invest in transportation infrastructure. By guiding our decisions in that ongoing work toward patterns that support the community's needs, we build a city that's happier, healthier, more prosperous, and better positioned to fulfill its mission.

Objectives

The TAC exists to improve the quality of life for Barre City's residents, expand transportation choice, and to maximize the value of properties adjacent to the public streets of the city. To that end, the Committee evaluates plans, projects and interventions with these factors considered generally in descending order of importance:

1. Safety for residents and visitors
2. Cost to construct and maintain infrastructure
3. Equity of access for all users, including children, seniors, people with disabilities, walkers and cyclists
4. Appropriateness for street type (arterial, connector, neighborhood) as established in the [2020 Municipal Plan](#) ("Road Safety and Congestion", pg 90)
5. Environmental quality improvements (air, water, vegetation, lighting)
6. Volume of traffic supported
7. Reducing travel delays

Committee

There are no residence requirements for members of the committee, and the number of members is not limited. The TAC observes the City's official [Rules of Procedure](#).