

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 6:00 pm on February 29, 2024, in the Second Floor Conference Room at Concord City Hall, 41 Green Street.

Members Present: Greg Bakos (Chair), Councilor Foote, Councilor Brown, Nicole Fox, Boyd Smith

Members Absent: Councilor Todd, Craig Tufts, Ian McGregor, Terri Paige

Guests: Vincent Pagano (CNHRPC)

City Staff: Mike Bezanson (City Engineer), Karen Hill (Transportation Engineer)

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

2. Introductions

3. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes – January 25, 2024

The meeting minutes of January 25, 2024 were approved as amended. Motion: Smith. Second: Brown. Unanimous.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. New Business

a. *Review/rank Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Projects*

Hill provided background on the intent of this exercise and the result being a report to Council to recommend CIP priorities based on TPAC rankings. Hill shared preliminary ranking results for each category that were derived from averaging individual member's rankings. The Committee discussed a number of categories and associated projects:

Bridges – Loudon Road Bridge was ranked as the Committee's number one priority. Other projects are supported as maintenance is required and to remove/keep from red list, in coordination with bridge funding and New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) Ten Year Plan (TYP).

Intersections – The Committee reviewed rankings and discussed results against accident data and priorities. It was discussed that CIP 570 – Pleasant/Warren/Fruit Intersection Improvements would be a candidate for the next CMAQ round. There was a brief discussion about CIP 520 and whether or not there is a need based on low accident rates. Foote expressed support for improvements at the intersection of Hoit/Mountain Roads. Hill confirmed an RSA application was submitted to NHDOT, pending acceptance. The Committee was in support of CIP 283 –Traffic Signals and Traffic Operations Improvements Project in rankings and after Hill confirmed the status of existing infrastructure and recent failures. CIP 541 – Regional Drive/Chenell Drive Intersection Improvements still fell to the bottom of the priorities. Hill did mention accidents are trending now at 5 per year over the last two years. The Committee was in support of examining re-striping of Regional Drive with upcoming paving project to help slow traffic until the intersection is improved.

Sidewalk/Streetscapes – The Committee agreed with rankings and believes that CIP 17 is always important to continue to fund. The Committee also discussed CIP 589 – Downtown Corridor Streetscape Improvements, and felt that if it were to be reconsidered, the sidewalks in the Civic District could use upgrades but there is not a lot of opportunity to add bump outs and/or make store fronts ADA accessible like on Main Street due to the narrowness of a lot of the side streets and parking on both sides. The Committee did feel that CIP 589 may be better proposed to extend streetscape improvements north and south along North and South Main to transition from the Main Street project.

Street Corridor Improvements – The Committee agreed with the rankings and discussed that Manchester Street is in dire need of “Complete Streets” improvements. The Committee also supports a study of the N Main Street corridor between Storrs Street and Bouton Street.

New street construction – It was discussed that Storrs Street North was ranked as the highest priority but it should be broken out from Storrs Street South as that is a lower priority. The Committee also recognized that this project may be delayed due to the railroad relocation being tied to the I-93 Bow-Concord Project.

Some Committee members discussed the Whitney Road Extension project with reservation in regards to impacts to neighboring areas and the potential of increased traffic, specifically on Sewalls Falls Road, Mountain Road and Route 3. Hill mentioned that a traffic study is being performed by the Developer.

6.

Old Business

- a. *Update from Complete Streets Policy working group*

Fox mentioned that the working group met three times to discuss the Complete Streets Policy vision. She mentioned that the group used the existing policy as a starting point to create the vision, which would be used as a framework for a much larger document, including street typologies, etc. Hill circulated the summary in the meeting packet. The Committee agreed to review and provide comments at the March meeting. The working group will also bring next steps and draft process to the March meeting for discussion.

7. Consent Reports

a. *Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes*

i. TPAC-BP – November 6, 2023

ii. TPAC-PT – March 7, 2023

Subcommittee meeting minutes were accepted.

8. City Council Meeting Update

Hill provided an update on various items that would be before Council in March, including a public hearing for traffic signal improvements, the establishment of a sidewalk reserve fund, a resolution for additional funding for Sewalls Falls/Abbott Road intersection improvements, and various Airport related items.

There was a brief discussion on development impact fees and it was confirmed that the Sewalls Falls and Abbott Road development was paying fees and contributed land at the corner to facilitate the intersection reconstruction.

9. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Mayor

a. *None.*

10. Status Report on Subcommittees

a. *Bicycle / Pedestrian Committee (TPAC-BP), Craig Tufts*

No update.

b. *Traffic Operations Committee (TOC), Karen Hill*

Hill circulated the TOC agenda for information, no further discussion.

c. *Public Transportation Subcommittee (TPAC-PT), Terri Paige*

No update.

11. Project Updates (Staff)

a. *CIP #17 – Sidewalk, Bikeway and Streetscape Improvements*

Hill mentioned that the Airport Road and Chenell Drive sidewalks are moving forward to be constructed this summer with the paving program. A consent report was accepted by City Council at their February meeting to postpone Pembroke Road sidewalk and paving for a number of reasons.

- b. *CIP #31 – McKee Square Intersection Improvements*
Hill mentioned next steps are to schedule a public meeting and report to Council on traffic study findings and present preferred alternatives.
- c. *CIP #520 – Intersection Safety Improvements (Sewalls/Abbott)*
Hill mentioned that there is a public hearing scheduled for the March City Council meeting that is seeking additional funds to complete the intersection improvements after bids came in high.
- d. *CIP #543 – Merrimack River Greenway Trail*
Bakos shared that Phase II, the segment through the sunflower fields is currently out to bid, to be constructed this summer. He also mentioned that the City has applied for a RAISE Grant that would fund future/larger segments of the trail which would be 100% federally funded if secured. He also mentioned that the TAP Grant portion of the trail should be moving forward in the near future once the ROW is sorted out.
- e. *CIP #657 – Deck Park Feasibility Study*
Bakos shared a summary of the recent public input meeting. He mentioned that the next steps are to work with their subconsultant/architect to develop concepts and report back to the public and City Council.

11. Other Discussion Items

None.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM by unanimous consent.

13. Upcoming Meeting Dates

March 28, 2024

April 25, 2024