

CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

- **FROM:** Karen Hill, P.E., Transportation Engineer, on behalf of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee
- **DATE:** February 23, 2024
- **SUBJECT:** Response to City Council Referral in regards to a communication from Ari Pollack requesting consideration be made to relocate the Concord Area Transit (CAT) bus stop now located between 214 and 220 North Main Street in Concord.

Recommendation

Accept this report recommending that the bus stop location between 214 and 220 North Main Street remain in its current location.

Background

At their October 12, 2021 meeting, City Council held a public hearing to amend the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking; Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking; Schedule VII, Bus and Taxicab Stands; together with report from the Transportation Engineer.

During the October 12, 2021 public hearing, City Manager Aspell noted that a request to consolidate two Concord Area Transit (CAT) bus stops had been submitted to the Public Transportation Subcommittee of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC-PT) to reduce potential traffic conflicts. He stated that Engineering staff, in concert with TPAC-PT and CAT management, investigated alternative locations and the recommended solution was to consolidate the two existing bus stops at a new location just south of the signal at North Main Street and Washington Street. The City Manager also explained that there was an existing 11-foot shoulder for the bus to pull off in an existing no parking zone, making it a more attractive location than the existing bus stop, which required the bus to stop in the travel way. It also provided more distance for the driver to negotiate shifting over into the leftmost lane.

There was no public testimony and the amendment passed with no dissenting votes.

On January 8, 2024, City Council forwarded to the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) a referral from City Council regarding a communication from Ari Pollack requesting consideration be made to relocate the Concord Area Transit (CAT) bus stop now located between 214 and 220 North Main Street.

Discussion

At its January 25, 2024 meeting, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC, the Committee) discussed the referral. The Committee discussed an analysis matrix, that examined nine potential locations along the east side of North Main Street between Storrs Street and Bouton Street, and laid out the benefits and challenges with accommodating a CAT bus stop at each location. Considerations were:

- Whether the stop is within the travel lane or shoulder;
- The impact to on-street parking;
- Distance from major intersection (Storrs and Bouton) (feet);
- Distance from Concord Coalition to End Homelessness (feet);
- Number of northbound travel lanes; and,
- Existing ADA accessibility.

The Committee concurred with the matrix data showing that the current location is the preferable location that adequately addresses safety and accessibility. Moving it would create additional concerns, result in loss of parking, or require additional funding for necessary accommodations.

CAT also performed boarding and alighting counts between January 11-22, 2024 for 7 full days, resulting in a total of 75 boardings and alightings (departures) at the current stop at #220. This equates to approximately 11 per day, which further translates to 3 per day on the crosstown route and 8 per day on the Penacook route.

After much consideration, the Committee recommends that the bus stop location between 214 and 220 North Main Street remain in its current location.

Attachments: January 25, 2024 DRAFT TPAC Meeting Minutes

cc: Transportation Policy Advisory Committee