

CITY OF CONCORD
TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF October 24, 2019

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 6:00 p.m., on October 24, 2019, in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street.

Members Present:

Dick Lemieux, Chair
Craig Tufts
Ursula Maldonado
Councilor Brent Todd
Terri Paige
Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins (Mayor approved as interim substitute for Councilor Rob Werner)

Members Absent:

Sheila Zakre, excused
Greg Bakos, excused
Ryan Buchanan, excused
Councilor Rob Werner, excused
Rebecca McWilliams, unexcused

Staff:

Dave Cedarholm, City Engineer
Ashley Hamilton, Fiscal Supervisor
Sam Durfee, Senior Planner

Guests:

Michael Sauve, resident
Mayor Jim Bouley

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 22, 2019 meeting were approved (Motion-Tufts; Second-Maldonado; Unanimous).

3. New Business

No new business items were discussed.

4. City Council Meeting Update

Councilor Brent Todd reported that Terri Page was appointed to TPAC and spoke briefly about ongoing activities, proposals, and hurdles relating to the Exit 17 / Hoit Road/ Whitney Road development and extension. Councilor Todd referenced the Whitney Road/Hoit Road Intersection Report from October 15, 2019 City Council Meeting packet for additional details.

TPAC agreed to keep this development project on their monthly agenda for continued discussions in addition to the ongoing speed and traffic monitoring on Rockingham Street.

5. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

- a. **Referral from City Council regarding a request for a stop sign on Country Club Lane at the Oakmont Drive intersection.** – The Traffic Operations Committee voted not to install a stop sign in this area. David Cedarholm agreed to follow up with City Council.
- b. **Referral from City Council regarding Kensington Road residents' concerns about cut-through traffic and speeds.** – David Cedarholm reported that after further discussions with Councilor Werner, a public meeting would no longer be held and that the Councilor would follow up with the resident.
- c. **Referral from City Council regarding a communication from Councilor Bouchard on resident safety concerns about illegal vehicle left turns from East Side Drive northbound into the CVS/Burger King driveway** – Pending further action. Next steps would include City discussions with CVS & Burger King and then hosting a public forum.
- d. **Referral from City Council regarding communications from Councilor Champlin on resident safety concerns with the intersection of Mountain Road and Hoit Road.** – Michael Sauve, a Concord resident, spoke with TPAC members about his concerns regarding speeding, increased traffic accidents, and people running stop signs at the intersection of Mountain Road and Hoit Road.

David Cedarholm noted that TOC members had conducted area traffic speed counts, installed additional signage, and improved current signage visibility in response to this request.

Councilor Todd and Councilor Rice Hawkins were both in favor of adding painted “Stop Ahead” street signs on Hoit Road to increase awareness and requested David Cedarholm follow up with TOC on the matter. Councilor Rice Hawkins indicated that she would gladly discuss the option of flashing stop signs with residents in the area if that was a viable solution and mentioned a future referral relating to resident concerns on Pine Crest Circle/Freedom Acres Drive relating to increased traffic and speeds linked to Hoit Road.

TPAC requested to have notice sent to the NHDOT regarding the safety concerns on Mountain Road, along with a request to trim trees and bushes and relocate a cluster of signage that block sight distances.

TPAC discussed the impacts of future I-93 changes reducing traffic in the area, but noted that the Exit 17 development could increase it. A roundabout was suggested for future consideration. TPAC noted that a community meeting would be needed before any decisions or changes were made.

6. Status Report on Subcommittees

a. Traffic Operations Committee (TOC)

David Cedarholm reported on recent TOC items noting that the Beaver Meadow pick up changes have been successful and the issue is resolved. TOC is continuing discussions on the Green St. / Pleasant St. / South St. intersection accident data and will now look into Ridge Road speed and traffic concerns caused by Liberty St. /Centre St. roundabout congestion. Dick Lemieux noted that the Langley Parkway project could be a solution to this increased traffic.

b. Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (TPAC-BP)

Craig Tufts reported that the Bike demonstration project went well and that Sam Durfee was working on the report to Council. Tufts indicated that the Sub-Committee is struggling to keep members and maintain a quorum for meetings and suggested that maybe making the Sub-Committee a project team would be more beneficial.

TPAC members recognized the ongoing difficulties to maintain membership and offered several promotion strategies and suggestions for continued outreach efforts.

c. Public Transportation Committee (TPAC-PT)

Although the TPAC-PT Committee has not met in several months due to quorum issues, Dick Lemieux stated that the next scheduled meeting will be held as to not lose track ongoing efforts.

Terri Paige offered to help improve the Committee's participation outreach and suggested that increasing PR and marketing efforts, networking, and possibly changing meeting locations and times to accommodate attendees relying on public transportation could help.

Councilor Todd agreed that a venue change could help and suggested the Firehouse meeting rooms for consideration. He also gave kudos to the work and progress Sheila Zakre has made as the Committee's Chair.

7. Staff Updates

Mayor Jim Bouley attended the TPAC meeting and gave updates on the following topics:

a. I-93 Bow-Concord/Storrs Street Extension North

Mayor Bouley reported that the State of NH has put off the I-93 Bow-Concord project for two years due to funding. A proposed 2050 group is being established, similar to the Concord 2020 group, in an effort to promote public involvement to help improve upon NHDOT's current preferred I-93 design particularly between Exits 13 and 15. NHDOT agreed to use McFarland Johnson in smaller group settings and Council will be looking for TPAC recommendations for group members to participate.

The redevelopment of Stickney Ave was mentioned relating to its importance in improved relationships with transportation (trains, buses, etc.). The Storrs Street/Stickney Ave area has a number of unsightly NHDOT buildings that have great real estate redevelopment potential, and the State is looking to build a new 600+ parking space garage in the vicinity. A 60,000 SF building is also proposed to be built in the downtown area between Capitol and School Streets for addition State offices.

It was noted that the City has a participation role (non- voting) and TPAC members will be needed to help identify traffic impacts, etc. The Mayor emphasized that the City has a window of opportunity and needs to get ahead of this redevelopment.

b. Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP543)

Mayor Bouley reported that City Council increased funding by \$100,000.00 and noted that there is great opportunity for improvement. TPAC input was welcomed.

Dick Lemieux commented that discussions with the Mayor on this project have been positive and supportive and was happy to have a friend in the Mayor.

c. Langley Parkway Phase 3 (CIP40)

Mayor Bouley commented that the proposed median effects off site developments and transportation has a huge impact. He suggested that TPAC's involvement would be useful in determining ways of improving the intersection by the High School and Hospital and identifying what the City should be asking for if negotiations with the State of NH were to take place.

8. Other Discussion Items

Dick Lemieux requested David Cedarholm to bring speed reduction data collected from Rockingham Street to the next meeting. TPAC approved a special exception to reduce the speeds on Rockingham Street as a test to gauge the effectiveness of doing so, and is looking to review the findings for future determinations.

Craig Tufts agreed to prepare and suggest items for the next TPAC meeting agenda.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at about 8:30 p.m.