

**CITY OF CONCORD**  
**TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF August 27, 2020**

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 6:00 p.m. on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

*Due to the Covid-19/Coronavirus Pandemic and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee was authorized to meet electronically. The City of Concord utilized the WebEx platform for this electronic meeting. There was no physical location to observe and listen to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to Governor Sununu's emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04.*

*All members of the Committee had the ability to communicate during this meeting through the WebEx platform, and the public had access to listen and participate in this meeting as necessary.*

Members Present: Dick Lemieux, Chair  
 Mayor Jim Bouley  
 Councilor Brent Todd  
 Councilor Meredith Hatfield  
 Greg Bakos  
 Ursula Maldonado  
 Terri Paige  
 Craig Tufts

Members Absent: Councilor Rob Werner  
 Rebecca McWilliams

City Staff Members: Karen Hill, Transportation Engineer  
 Sam Durfee, Senior Planner

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the July 23, 2020 meeting were approved as amended (Motion – Hatfield; Second – Maldonado; Unanimous).

**3. Public Comment**

No public comments.

**4. New Business**

**a. Discuss Preferred Alternative for the Loudon Road Bridge Project**

Hill asked for additional feedback regarding last month's presentation. She stated that the City is working towards reaching a preferred alternative and would like to be able to eliminate any alternatives that are not supported. Members were not in support of the three alternatives that do not accommodate a shared-use path (SUP).

Mayor Bouley discussed that the number one priority of the project should be bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. He mentioned that this will likely be the future river crossing of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT). He also discussed that there are hopes to redevelop the Everett Arena park in the future, which will also draw pedestrians and traffic to the area and highlighted the importance of maintaining the westbound left turn lane into the arena to accommodate future re-development. He stated that the bridge is also a critical connection to the interstate system and it should be able to accommodate large

vehicles and pedestrians safely. He added that the lane configuration should not be a high priority as this area will be upgraded with the Bow-Concord project in the future. .

TPAC members were in support of reducing the median island as much as possible to allocate that width to the bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

There was further discussion on the SUP/traffic separation options as well as the possibility of allowing for bus signal prioritization along the corridor to ease transit delay concerns.

**b. TPAC members discussed the formation of Neighborhood Traffic Subcommittee**

Councilor Hatfield discussed that there is a lot of interest in forming the subcommittee, but it will be difficult to engage the public with the current limitations posed by COVID19. She suggested postponing the effort for now and continuing to address these issues as we have been utilizing TOC. Members agreed to re-visit in a couple of months.

Durfee suggested those who are interested in the committee to attend a TOC meeting to get a feel for what they accomplish as to not duplicate efforts with the newly proposed subcommittee.

Councilor Todd agreed and mentioned that the first step of the proposed subcommittee would be to take a look back at the prior accomplishments and goals of the committee and move forward from there.

Maldonado would like to encourage public participation on TPAC and the subcommittees from the Heights.

**5. Old Business**

TPAC members previously agreed to table the item to finalize TPAC's Council Report in response to Mayor Bouley's TPAC discussion on October 24th, 2019.

**6. Consent Reports**

TPAC-BP June 6, 2020 and TPAC-PT January 22, 2020 minutes were accepted by consent.

**7. City Council Meeting Update**

There was a resolution that appropriated dollars towards CIP 78 Annual Highway Improvement Program and discussion around the granite curb cost sharing program.

**8. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair**

**a. Update on the Horse Hill/Carter Hill/Bog/River Road intersection study**

Hill commented that Engineering would be initiating the intersection study once traffic data is received from CNHRPC.

Mayor Bouley asked when the study would be complete as traffic will be increasing in the area with the apple orchard and nursery traffic this fall. He also mentioned that addressing the intersection would help to alleviate neighborhood concerns. There was support for posting the study on the City's TPAC website prior to the next meeting for public viewing.

**9. Status Report on Subcommittees**

**a. Public Transportation Subcommittee (TPAC-PT)**

Terri Paige discussed ridership counts and the effects of COVID. She also mentioned that CAT is working with NHDOT and a consultant on the CAT Bus Service Study. The study is looking at route changes, technology improvements, and the possibility of going fare free.

Paige followed up on last month's discussion regarding the bus stop at the south drive entrance for Capitol Plaza and sight distance concerns. She stated that members of TPAC-PT did not support moving the stop at this time, but that she did communicate with her drivers that if they need to wait to make up time, then they should pull into the plaza to wait instead of sitting at the bus stop on Storrs Street.

Paige was excited to announce that the bus stops had recently been pressure washed and that they are looking into setting up a schedule for future cleanings. She also mentioned that CAT is looking to rebrand in the near future.

Councilor Hatfield asked about the full bus wraps/advertising, she voiced concerns that they take away from the buses and make them not look like public transit vehicles as they cover the windows. Paige discussed that the wraps are a big funding source and she could look into partial wraps and the cost differential.

**b. Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee (TPAC-BP)**

Tufts provided an update on the City-wide sidewalk priority list that TPAC-BP has been working on. He informed members that staff is working on ranking the sidewalks using the criteria that was presented to TPAC last month.

Tufts mentioned that there has been discussion that a TAP round will be announced this fall. Staff and CNHRPC had an internal discussion on potential projects and will propose them to TPAC when ready.

TPAC-BP has a new member, Boyd Smith, who attended the July meeting and is a volunteer for the Concord Lake Sunapee Trail.

**c. Traffic Operations Committee (TOC)**

Hill provided an update on TOC discussions, including problematic WEEBLES locations throughout the City and mitigation, traffic concerns surrounding back to school efforts, speeding concerns on Horse Hill Road, and that General Services is currently working on refreshing intersection “arrows and onlys” throughout the City.

Lemieux discussed that there was a serious bicycle accident on Loudon Road where the driver intentionally ran into a bicyclist. He asked if the City is continuing to keep track of bicycle and pedestrian accidents and their severity. Hill responded that they have the information from the police department but have not been updating the previous spreadsheet. She agreed to update it in the future.

**10. Staff Updates**

**a. Storrs Street Extension (CIP 18)**

HDR, the City’s consultant worked to update the scope of the project. Staff will be presenting a proposal to extend the TIF district at the September City Council meeting.

**b. Whitney Road/Hoit Road Intersection (CIP30)**

VHB, the City’s consultant completed the 30% design and estimate, which is being reviewed by staff and will be discussed with NHDOT. The site plan went to the Planning Board at the July meeting for an initial design review. Many comments were involving bicycle and pedestrian connections to and within the site. The next step will be for Council to review the roadway/intersection improvement plans.

**c. Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP543)**

Construction is nearing completion and an opening date will be made public once it is known. Members discussed how great it turned out and folks cannot wait to use it.

**d. Langley Parkway Phase 3 (CIP40)**

No items were discussed.

**e. Loudon Road Bridge (CIP 588)**

Discussed as Item 4a.

**f. I-93 Bow-Concord / Storrs Street Extension North**

This project is on hold due to NHDOT’s budget constraints.

**11. Other Discussion Items**

**12. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 7:45 p.m.