



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

MINUTES

Traffic Operations Committee

September 19, 2017, 12:00 PM
2nd floor Conference Room
City Hall, 41 Green Street, Concord, NH

Staff Present:

Rob Mack, Engineering Services (Chair)
Ed Roberge, Engineering Services
Jim Major, General Services
John Stoll, Planning Division
John Thomas, Police Department
Rick Wollert, Fire Alarm Division
Terry Crotty, Concord School District

Guests:

Jason Wimpey, Concord School District

1. Regular Discussion Items

a. Overview of City-Wide Crash Data

Crash data for August 2017 was reviewed. There were 89 reportable crashes in August 2017. This compares with 109 and 97 reportable crashes in August 2016 and 2015, respectively. 14 crashes resulted in total of 18 people injured. There were no fatalities.

There was one crash involving a pedestrian: a pedestrian aged 4 years playing in the driveway of 241 N. State Street and then suddenly running out into the street and being struck by a slowly-moving vehicle (minor injury, child at fault, ongoing investigation).

There were two crashes involving bicyclists: a bicyclist aged 63 years, member of a group of five bicyclists, coming to a stop on the right side of N. State Street at a red light at the intersection with Penacook Street and being struck by the side-view mirror of a slowing southbound vehicle (minor injuries, driver fled scene but was later identified and arrested; driver at fault; helmet worn); and a bicyclist aged 64 traveling eastbound on Second Street at a very high speed and while passing a left-turning vehicle on the left, was struck by the turning vehicle (injuries, bicyclist at fault, helmet worn).

b. City Council Meeting Update

At its September 11, 2017 meeting, City Council set an October 10 public hearing to consider the proposed CAT bus stop relocations on Pleasant Street. They also indicated City support for NHDOT's potential acquisition of Pan Am Railway right-of-way for rail-trail use.

c. Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) Update

At its August 24, 2017 meeting, TPAC continued discussion of the Pleasant Street rezoning proposal and prepared a recommendation for the Planning Board. TPAC also prepared recommendations requesting NHDOT to consider revising pavement markings to allow space for a bicycle shoulder on: Sheep Davis Road on the bridge over I-393; and along the I-393 Connector between N. Main Street and the Commercial Street intersection.

2. Ongoing Discussion and Action Items

- a. None.

3. New Discussion and Action Items

- a. **Request by a Heights resident for a Do Not Block Intersection sign at the Loudon/Hazen/Airport signalized intersection (*Engineering: 8/30/17*).**

At issue is a concern by Dick Patton, a Heights resident, on traffic stopping inside the signalized Loudon/Hazen/Airport intersection and blocking other traffic movements. This problem was generated by recent Loudon Road construction activity east of the intersection which created an eastbound backup that extended through the nearby traffic signal. A problem arose when some eastbound vehicles would enter the intersection on green, but with insufficient space to clear the intersection, and then becoming trapped in the intersection when the light changes red, blocking other traffic movements from crossing the intersection. A Do Not Block intersection sign was requested.

Rob Mack followed up by reporting the concern to field inspection staff who indicated they would monitor traffic operations at signalized intersections that might be influenced by nearby construction activity. If needed, inspection staff would require an additional police officer to be located at the particular intersection as part of that day's construction traffic control plan. TOC attendees concurred with the above action. Since such intersection blockage does not regularly occur at this location, attendees concurred that a permanent sign was not justified.

4. Open Discussion Items

- a. **Staff response to miscellaneous inquiries (refer to correspondence in agenda packet).**

None.

- b. **Discussion of Loudon Road traffic enforcement efforts.**

CPD provided a summary of enforcement actions conducted along Loudon Road on the Heights over a 25-day period in August and September. A breakdown of the 215 warnings/citations given includes: improper vehicle equipment - 35%; improper registration/driver's license - 18%; disregard for traffic control devices - 16%; cell phone use - 10%; inappropriate speed - 5%; and other improper driving - 16%.

Rob Mack noted a recent communication from CPD regarding enforcement of the No Left Turn prohibition posted on East Side Drive entering the CVS driveway. This prohibition was included in the Planning Board's approval of the CVS site to address safety and traffic operational concerns; two No Left Turn signs had been posted per plan. CPD continues to cite a very high number of violations at this driveway location and inquired if alternative sign placement and/or supplemental signs could be added to potentially enhance driver compliance and further support enforcement efforts. TOC attendees concurred with a recommendation to add two Do Not Enter signs on the one-way driveway exit (facing potential left-turn entries from East Side Drive). Additionally the existing No Left Turn sign nearest the one-way site entrance was on a bent post and should be reset. General

Services would install the supplemental signs as discussed. Staff would continue to monitor compliance along with CPD's continued enforcement efforts.

It was noted that the site developer had provided funds to the city to potentially install a raised median along East Side Drive between this driveway opening and the intersection at Loudon Road should the city, at some point, determine that safety or operational problems arise due to left turns at the subject driveway intersection.

c. Potential application for the next round of TIGER grants.

Ed Roberge noted that the next round of TIGER grants would soon be considered by USDOT with applications due by October 16, 2017. Potential transportation projects in the City's CIP that appear to meet the objectives of the TIGER program include the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP 543) and Langley Parkway Phase 3 (CIP 40). The potential to apply for this round of grants will be further discussed with Administration. TOC attendees indicated support for either project.

Next meeting date: October 17, 2017