

**CITY OF CONCORD  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY NOVEMBER 7, 2024**

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 6:00 pm on November 7, 2024, in the Second Floor Conference Room at Concord City Hall, 41 Green Street.

*Members Present:* Councilor Brown, Councilor Foote, Councilor Todd (stand-in Chair), Nicole Fox, Chris Nadeau, Ian McGregor, Craig Tufts

*Members Absent:* Greg Bakos (Chair)

*Guests:* Terri Paige (CAT), Ron Rayner

*City Staff:* Mike Bezanson (City Engineer), Karen Hill (Transportation Engineer), Alec Bass (Assistant City Planner)

**1. Call to Order**

Hill called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

**2. Introductions**

Tufts nominated Councilor Todd to be Vice Chair of the Committee, seconded by Fox. Motion passed, unanimously.

Councilor Todd, Vice Chair, ran the meeting in Bakos' absence.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

*Approval of Minutes – September 26, 2024*

On a motion made by Tufts, seconded by McGregor, the meeting minutes of September 26, 2024 were approved by unanimous consent. Abstain: Foote.

**4. Public Comment**

Ron Rayner, an interested resident of Concord, attended the meeting to voice his concerns with the Legislative Parking Garage project. He would like to advocate for public use of the garage since federal funds are being used. He mentioned that he contacted the State and has discussed with City Manager's office. He is trying to build awareness and momentum for the concept.

Fox asked Rayner if the parking garage were available to the public if he anticipated that it would be metered like other public garages. Rayner stated that would need to be discussed between the City and State. He would like to see the first two floors to be reserved for State Staff and City Staff, while leaving

the third and fourth floors available for public parking when the Legislature is not in session. He asked TPAC to recommend Council act on this matter, this was not confirmed.

**5. New Business**

**a. *NHDOT Bow-Concord Meeting Update***

Hill provided a summary of the NHDOT public information session held on October 24, 2024. She mentioned that the State's full presentation is available on their website and encouraged everyone to check it out. Her summary included:

- New project branding and website
- 2021 Public Outreach Commitments
- Design and Analysis update – including revising the traffic study and evaluating capacity improvements, looking at a “safety option”
- Traffic Update
- Design modifications
- Immediate project priorities
- Next steps
- Schedule

The Committee discussed the desire to remain updated and involved as the project moves forward.

**b. *Review preliminary concepts for N Main Street Crosswalk and Bus Stop Improvements***

Hill provided a summary that the City plans to cold plane and overlay N Main Street, between Bouton Street and Storrs Street. She mentioned that there is an opportunity to make minor safety improvements to the corridor, including formalizing bus stops and pull-offs, and the pedestrian crossings. She added that the corridor had recently been discussed by the Committee and that a larger study is currently programmed in future years.

Hill shared that there is a public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, at 6pm in Council Chambers, to be a presentation of alternatives and a listening session.

Hill shared four new bus stop proposals in the northbound (NB) and southbound (SB) directions, with the goal of choosing one concept/location on either side of the road to consolidate and improve multiple existing stops.

Paige shared that CAT reviewed the bus stop concepts and prioritized them based on being able to safely pull into the stop and completely out of the travel lane. She also mentioned that the existing bus stops between Franklin and Pearl, and near Pitman, on the west side of the road, are difficult and inaccessible.

Paige and team also view the options closest to the mid-point of the corridor as the most convenient for users and the most accessible to all. She mentioned that for the above reasons, CAT prefers Option 4, citing some concern with the two gas station driveways. She asked if the City could work with the owner of Speedway to potentially establish one-way driveways.

The Committee then reviewed the printed bus improvement concepts. The Committee discussed pros/cons of each option. It was suggested to explore a potential "4a" NB option which may satisfy the conditions but save the elimination of a few parking spaces.

The Committee then reviewed printed crosswalk improvement concepts. Hill mentioned that the intent is to keep one crosswalk at each unsignalized intersection. She noted that she shows a north or south option for most intersections, all of which have their own pros/cons. Hill also shared the proposal in the City's budget to fund Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) at the four un-signalized pedestrian crossings at intersections of Pitman, Court, Chapel, and Franklin. The proposed concepts also show potential curb extensions/bumpouts which may shorten and improve visibility at the crossings.

The Committee suggested compiling accident data to accompany this proposal to justify the ask.

**6. Old Business**

**a. *Review and discuss DRAFT Complete Streets Policy.***

Fox shared that the working group reviewed and revised the draft policy. She mentioned that wording is important for #7 - Project selection and implementation. The Committee briefly discussed a ranking and project scoring process. Fox plans to circulate the draft before the next meeting for the Committee to review. It was discussed that it would then need to go to Staff, Management and potentially other committees for comments before presenting to Council.

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

None.

**8. Consent Reports**

None.

**9. General Updates**

**a. *City Council Meeting***

Councilor Todd presented a City Council meeting update, including:

- Council accepted the Report on behalf of the Traffic Operations Committee, in response to a referral regarding a communication from Councilor Foote with a resident request for a sidewalk and traffic calming measures on Broken Ground Drive, not recommending sidewalk construction outside of the paving program or the introduction of speed bumps at this time. The roadway was last overlaid with new pavement in 2020 and is currently under an excavation moratorium.
- Council approved the resolution to accept NH Highway Safety Agency grant funds of \$25,300 for Police Department roadway safety and outreach initiatives; you'll recall I reported on this last month as to the Council authorizing to apply for the grant, and the City was successful. Again, this grant covers funding for Speed Patrols, Operation Safe Commute, Join the NH Clique, Distracted Driving Patrols, Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Patrols, and other programs. The total amount of the City match for this grant is \$6,325.00.
- Council approved the Resolution appropriating \$80,000 in the New Airport Terminal Building Project (CIP #383) to replace water services at the Municipal Airport, with bonding of \$80,000 for that purpose.
- Council also approved the Resolution appropriating \$12,500 in the Airport Fund, and appropriating \$250,000 in the New Airport Terminal Building Project (CIP #383) for an Environmental Assessment (EA); this is accepting \$225,000 in grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration, and \$12,500 of grant funds from the State of New Hampshire, along with the \$12,500 from the Airport fund.

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

Tufts shared that the Subcommittee last met on November 4<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the sidewalk rankings and scoring criteria. The Subcommittee found the criteria and rankings to be current and reasonable as they had only in place for about 3.5 years.

Tufts also shared that Staff had provided the Subcommittee a list of the top 50 sidewalk segments, with applied pavement dates to highlight any orphaned segments similar to the Borough Road segment discussed at the last TPAC meeting. Staff will attempt to provide a map that shows segmented sidewalks to assist in recommendations.

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

No update, TOC did not meet in October.

**d.** *Public Transportation (CAT)*

Paige (Concord Area Transit) shared that the Concord-Laconia connector is continuing to grow, averaging about 450-480 rides per month.

Hill shared that proposals will be going before Council to formalize bus stops on Canal Street and Fisherville Road.

**11. Project Updates (Staff)**

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

No update since last meeting.

**b. *CIP #31 – McKee Square Intersection Improvements***

No update since last meeting.

**c. *CIP #520 – Intersection Safety Improvements (Sewalls/Abbott)***

No update since last meeting.

**d. *CIP #543 – Merrimack River Greenway Trail***

No update since last meeting.

**e. *CIP #588 – Loudon Road Bridge***

Bezanson shared that preliminary design has begun. He mentioned that borings were recently completed and ground penetrating radar (GPR) to confirm the health of the existing deck. He mentioned that GSD recently resurfaced the travel lanes as a temporary mitigation. He confirmed receipt of traffic and survey information.

**f. *CIP #657 – Deck Park Feasibility Study***

No update since last meeting.

**11. Other Discussion Items**

**12. Adjourn**

On a motion made by Brown, seconded by Todd, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM by unanimous consent.

**13. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

December 5, 2024