

**City of Concord
Transportation Policy Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 28, 2016 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm
City Hall Council Chambers

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Dick Lemieux called the meeting to order. Those in attendance included:

Committee Members Present:

Dick Lemieux (At-Large - Chair)
Brent Todd (Council Representative)
Craig Tufts, (Bicycling Community)
Sheila Zakre (At-Large)
Ursula Maldonado (At-Large)
Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer (City Manager's Designee)

Committee Members Not Present:

Byron Champlin (Council Representative)
Rob Werner (Council Representative)
Tom Irwin (At-Large)
Jim Sudak (Public Transportation Representative)

Staff, Visitors and Guests Present:

None

2. Approval of October 22, 2015 meeting minutes

The December 17, 2015 minutes were approved as submitted (Motion-Zakre; Second-Todd; Unanimous).

3. Presentations

None.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. New business

None.

6. Old Business

None

7. Consent Reports

a. Approval of Subcommittee Minutes (Bicycle/Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Traffic Operations)

The following subcommittee reports were accepted by unanimous consent: Bicycle/Pedestrian - December 7, 2015.

8. City Council Meeting Update

Brent Todd reported that at its January 11, 2016 meeting, City Council, in response to public concerns on the three-lane conversion, voted to reconsider project safety improvements including potential alternatives that retain the current four-lane roadway rather than the previously-approved conversion to three lanes. Council also discussed CIP project priorities including the Main Street 'bookends' project recommended by TPAC in December.

TPAC members further discussed the Loudon Road project with particular focus on improvements that meet the project's primary purpose to mitigate existing corridor safety deficiencies. The City Engineer's January 4, 2016 project status report to City Council was also reviewed and discussed. TPAC approved a motion to submit a recommendation to Council that TPAC strongly endorses the three-lane conversion project as approved on February 10, 2014, as well as the City Engineer's project status report to City Council dated January 4, 2016, and recommends that another public information meeting on the project be held (Motion-Zakre; Second-Maldonado; Unanimous). Staff was requested to formalize the TPAC statement in a report to Council.

9. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

a. Referral by the Chair to discuss the status of the sections of N. and S. Main Street immediately north and south of the Downtown Complete Streets Project

Rob Mack presented staff's pavement marking layout plan proposed for both of the subject section of Main Street, also referred to as the 'bookends'. On the southern segment (Storrs Street to Concord Street), existing parking spaces are retained but the current 4-lane markings are revised to converge to a two-lane section with six-foot painted divisor essentially matching the Main Street complete street section to be constructed north of Concord Street. Bicycle lanes or shared-use lanes are also included consistent to the new project to the north. On the northern segment (Centre Street to Storrs Street) existing lane use is retained, but lane width is reallocated between existing curb lines. A four-foot lateral relocation of the existing raised median is also proposed to allow adequate space for the addition of a bicycle lane on each side of the segment.

This project has been added as a subproject to CIP 460 (Downtown Complete Streets Project) for the proposed FY17 CIP with a \$260,000 budget which includes milling and resurfacing the segments in addition to the revised lane-use markings. The new project is subject to approval by City Council this June.

b. Referral by the Chair to discuss transportation project priorities for the coming years

Rob Mack reported that TPAC's consent report regarding transportation project priorities would be submitted to Council in their February 8, 2016 agenda package. TPAC's recommendations made at the December 17, 2015 meeting were compiled by staff into the consent report, draft copies of which were distributed to attendees.

c. Referral from Engineering to discuss speed limits city-wide (Engineering: 11/19/15)

Not discussed.

10. Status report on subcommittees

a. **Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee, Craig Tufts**

Craig Tufts reported that TPAC-Bike/Ped and Central NH Bicycle Coalition continue planning for a bike-lane demonstration project in the downtown area in conjunction with Bike-to-Work Day in May 2016. The demonstration would include temporarily laying out a buffered bike lane along a block or two of N. State Street in the downtown area by overriding parking spaces for the day and placing temporary pavement striping lines to indicate bike lanes. The group met with city staff earlier this month to discuss feasibility and logistics related to staging such an event. He also noted that work continues on the pedestrian master plan with current efforts focused on a visions/goals statement.

b. **Public Transit Committee, Tom Irwin**

The chair reported that TPAC-PT did not meet this month. CAT and NHDOT continue to work on a specification for the new bus acquisition.

c. **Traffic Operations Committee, Rob Mack**

Rob Mack reported that TOC met on January 19, 2016 and discussed: a resident request to remove the passing zone on NH 132 north of Hoit Road; a resident request for a Hidden Driveway sign; a resident request to designate Thorndike Street as a walk-to-school route for priority snow plowing; and a staff recommendation to reconfigure the skewed Old Loudon Road/Portsmouth Street intersection to a right-angle intersection in conjunction with the planned repaving of both streets this summer.

11. Staff Updates

a. **Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project – TIGER 2012 (CIP460)**

Rob Mack reported that work on S. Main Street will begin this spring. City Council has not yet decided on options for decorative lighting.

b. **US Route 3 North Improvements (CIP 35)**

Rob Mack reported that the project is substantially complete except for signals which will be finished in the coming weeks. The final pavement wearing course as well as street trees will be placed this spring.

c. **Sewalls Falls Bridge Replacement Project (CIP 22)**

Rob Mack reported that pilings are being installed for the western abutment and work continues on removal of the existing bridge truss.

d. **Loudon Road Corridor Improvements (CIP 19)**

Rob Mack noted the prior discussion of this project in Item 8, above. A draft submission of final plans and construction documents has been forwarded to NHDOT. Further work on right-of-way easements is on hold pending Council action on the project.

e. **Mountain/Shawmut/East Side/Exit 16 Roundabout (CIP 24)**

Rob Mack reported that project design is underway. The first public information meeting on the project will be scheduled in late February, with a status report provided to Council in March. Design will continue through the winter with construction planned for next spring or summer.

f. **Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP 543)**

The scope of work is still being negotiated with the city's design consultant. Engineering staff is meeting with Planning and Recreation Department staff next week to coordinate the design effort.

g. **I-93 Bow-Concord (NHDOT)**

Rob Mack noted there was nothing new to report.

12. Other Discussion Items

a. **League of American Bicyclists' (LAB) review and feedback on the city's 2015 Bicycle Friendly Community application**

A copy of formal feedback, suggestions and scoring from LAB was reviewed regarding the city's application and bronze-level award. Suggested next steps to further improve bicycling in the community include: adopting a bicycle facility selection criteria that increases separation and protection of bicyclists based on traffic volumes and speeds; increasing the quantity of high-quality bicycle parking; offering more bicycle skills training for students and adults; educating police officers on traffic laws as they pertain to motorists and bicyclists; ensuring that bicycle infrastructure serves and connects people of all ages, incomes and ethnicities; and implementing recommendations in the Bicycle Master Plan, particular in regard to addressing barriers to bicycling such as I-93 and Loudon Road.

b. The Chair requested that a discussion of Langley Parkway be added to next month's agenda, particularly regarding potential use of CNHRPC's new regional traffic model to estimate travel demand changes.

c. The Chair asked if staff could add a discussion of the Main Street bus stop locations to the next TPAC-PT agenda. At issue is a proposal to permanently move the former northbound stop on Main Street to Storrs Street under the parking garage.

d. The Chair discussed TPAC membership as several members' terms will expire in April. He and Ursula Maldonado expressed interest in another three-year term. Tom Irwin sent a communication noting he was unable to continue with another term. Staff noted that the Mayor's appointment of the three Council Representatives to TPAC has not yet been made.

13. Adjourn

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates: February 25, 2016
March 24, 2016
April 28, 2016