

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2021**

The *Transportation Policy Advisory Committee* (TPAC) met at 6:00 pm on March 25, 2021. 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, Gregory Bakos, Councilor Meredith Hatfield, Councilor Zandra Rice-Hawkins, Councilor Brent Todd, Craig Tufts
Members: Rebecca McWilliams, Terri Paige, Councilor Rob Werner
Absent:
Guests: Laurie Rauseo joined the meeting at 8:08pm.
City Staff Members: David Cedarholm (City Engineer), Sam Durfee (Senior Planner), Karen Hill (Transportation Engineer)

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes – January 28, 2021

The meeting minutes of January 28, 2021 were approved. *Motion:* Todd.

Second: Bakos. *Roll call vote:* Todd, Rice-Hawkins, Lemieux, Tufts, Bakos.

Abstain: Hatfield. *Unanimous.*

3. Public Comment

Chair opened the meeting for public comment; no comments were presented.

4. New Business

a. Main Street TIGER Report Update

Hill reviewed the summary sheets of the report that had been distributed prior to the meeting. She mentioned that there were no noticeable trends in the data and that COVID affected the 2020 results. Councilor Todd inquired about the increase in pedestrian accidents along the S. Main Street segment. Hill to follow up with accident summaries.

b. *TAP Grant Application*

Durfee reported that the TAP application had been submitted for the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT), from the Boscawen Town line to Sewalls Falls Road. He mentioned that Martha Drukker contributed greatly to the process as well as many other team members. Hill informed the committee that although last month's conversations were around submitting a sidewalk bundle for a TAP project, this MRGT project came forward and the City decided to submit this project instead.

Councilor Hatfield added her support for the project but asked if the project would include any signage or ways to prevent people from entering certain areas along the river that may be sensitive. Tufts mentioned that those details will be explored if the project moves forward. Bakos responded that proposed protection areas could possibly act as mitigation for certain permits that would be needed for the project. Hatfield is concerned with trash along the river, and suggested that the increase in access may be an opportunity to introduce cleanup efforts and public education in regards to protection of land and fish/wildlife in the area. Tufts noted that the TAP application process is very competitive, there is a scoring system and the NHDOT Commissioner makes the final decision.

c. *Discussion on Loudon Road Bridge Shared-Use Path alignment*

Cedarholm reported that HDR has prepared a draft report that is being reviewed by Carlos Baia before submitting it to NHDOT. The Chair confirmed that the location of the multi-use path has not been finalized yet.

5. Old Business

a. *Discuss formation of Neighborhood Traffic Subcommittee*

Hill had distributed documents, to be used as reference, from the previous Neighborhood Traffic Subcommittee. Councilor Hatfield suggested that the process might be more effective if it could be in-person and not via web meetings. Hatfield will be moving out of town and will need to resign from the TPAC next month. Councilor Todd shared the long term history of the prior subcommittee and suggested that City staff be involved to assist in developing the scope of the subcommittee. Hill will coordinate a meeting with those interested, and will report back to TPAC at a future meeting. Todd also suggested TPAC members think about how the subcommittee can help to advise TPAC, since that is the intent of the formation of the subcommittee.

b. *Finalize TPAC's Council Report in response to Mayor Bouley's TPAC discussion on October 24, 2019*

Mayor Bouley requested that the item be removed from the agenda at this time.

6. Consent Reports

a. *Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes*

i. *TPAC-BP*: None.

ii. *TPAC-PT*: None.

7. City Council Meeting Update

Councilor Todd reported that the only transportation item discussed at the last Council meeting was the TAP grant that was discussed in item 4b, and that the City Manager intended to apply for the maximum amount for the grant and submit a letter of support from the City Council.

Cedarholm discussed that the Council had a public hearing at the March meeting for the proposed TIF expansion for the Hoit and Whitney Intersection Improvement project. He added that Council will make a decision at the April City Council meeting.

8. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

a. *Update on Audible Pedestrian Signals along Pleasant Street*

Cedarholm reported that this signal project has been incorporated into CIP number 283 and will be considered for \$42,000 of funding in fiscal year 2022.

b. *Referral from Councilor Nyhan in regards to resident's safety concerns and sidewalk request on Iron Works Road*

Hill reported that Councilor Nyhan referred a resident's concern regarding the construction of a sidewalk on Iron Works Road. Tufts noted that the sidewalk is #39 of 117 on the city-wide sidewalk improvement list, and by neighborhood, it is #7 of 30 on the south end list. Mayor Bouley asked how many residents have expressed interest in this sidewalk. Cedarholm noted that a speed study had been conducted in 2019 in response to the same resident's concern. Lemieux noted that the time to construct a sidewalk on Iron Works Road would be when it is being resurfaced, that would be the most cost effective way of constructing it. Councilor Rice-Hawkins posed questions regarding the sidewalk list and possible grants for sidewalks. Durfee shared the purpose of the sidewalk priority list is to populate CIP #17 and that it will be brought to Council in April. Mayor Bouley expressed concerns with the condition of existing sidewalks throughout the City and felt they should take priority over building new sidewalks. He suggested that sidewalks be considered for improvement based on the volume of use and condition, and that tree and bush trimming would improve the use of existing sidewalks. Councilor Todd recalled a time when notecards were left for residents that needed to address their landscape overgrowth. Engineering will inquire about the possibility of an intern completing an existing conditions survey in order to consider existing sidewalks in the priority list as well. This will also be discussed at the next TPAC-BP subcommittee meeting.

- c. *Referral from Councilor Rice Hawkins from residents in the Freedom Acres community in East Concord who are increasingly concerned about the high speed, high volume cut through traffic from I-93 southbound that disrupts neighborhood activities and poses serious risks to children during the weekend rush hours.*
Councilor Rice Hawkins noted that the neighborhood is discussing the possibility of installing a temporary traffic barrier on Freedom Acres after Pinecrest Circle to help to deter cut-through traffic, this was suggested by the Traffic Operations Committee.

- d. *Update on Horse Hill / Carter Hill / Bog / River Road intersection study.*
Hill noted that the report from Engineering will be submitted to Council in April, for a May Public Hearing. Councilor Todd inquired if the Fire Department had provided input on the proposed four-way stop at the intersection. Cedarholm noted that Rick Wollert, who serves on the TOC committee, had concerns with the four-way stop with the possibility of the bridge freezing in the winter. Hill reiterated that the four-way stop recommendation has been made primarily due to the sight distance issues and how skewed the intersection is.

9. Status Report on Subcommittees

- a. *Traffic Operations Committee (TOC), Karen Hill*
Hill noted that the last TOC meeting was canceled and nothing significant was discussed at the prior meeting.

- b. *Public Transportation Committee (TPAC-PT), Terri Paige (absent)*
TPAC-PT did not meet in March.

Councilor Hatfield inquired the status of the intersection improvements at Centre and Washington Streets. Hill mentioned that it was put on hold last year due to the need for funding and a public meeting was tough during COVID. Cedarholm added the improvements to CIP #520 for FY 2024.

Mayor Bouley left the meeting and thanked the Committee for its participation.

- c. *Bicycle / Pedestrian Committee (TPAC-BP), Craig Tufts*
Tufts noted that there will be a Bike Swap fundraiser on July 31st for the Central NH Bicycle Coalition, and discussed the plans for placing bicycle fix-it stations at locations throughout the City. Councilor Rice-Hawkins asked if there would be any extra and suggested maybe placing one on Oak Hill since there is a lot of bicycle activity in that area.

10. Staff Updates**a. *Storrs Street Extension (CIP 18)***

Cedarholm noted that the project is on hold pending resolution of issues with NHDOT and Pan Am.

b. *Whitney Road / Hoit Road Intersection (CIP 30)*

Cedarholm noted that the project is moving rather quickly and the plans are being updated to reflect comments from NHDOT. The plan is to get the project out to bid this month. Lemieux asked if the project includes realignment of the SB on-ramp which would help to reduce the high speeds in the area. Cedarholm replied, yes. Hill informed the committee that they can access the design plans through the City Council agenda on the City's website.

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

Discussed during item 4b.

d. *Langley Parkway Phase Three (CIP 40)*

No discussion.

e. *Loudon Road Bridge (CIP 588)*

No discussion.

f. *I-93 Bow-Concord*

Lemieux has concerns that the project keeps slipping each year. He believes it will solve a lot of traffic problems in the City. Councilor Hatfield suggested getting it on the federal delegation radar due to the potential for an infrastructure stimulus package being introduced. She expressed the importance of the project for the City and the region. Councilor Todd stated that he has confidence that the City is monitoring what is going on and will continue to.

11. *Other Discussion Items*

Councilor Hatfield inquired on the number of citizen positions that are vacant on TPAC; Hill confirmed that there are five positions open, a pedestrian and trail representative and 4 at-large. Hill suggested discussing potential candidates with Mayor Bouley.

12. *Adjourn*

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm by unanimous consent.