



CITY OF CONCORD

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MINUTES

Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

August 24, 2017, 6:00 PM
2nd Floor Conference Room
City Hall, 41 Green Street, Concord, NH

Members Present:

Dick Lemieux (Vehicle Traffic Safety Operations; Chair)
Brent Todd (Council Representative)
Ursula Maldonado (Pedestrian and Trails Community)
Jim Sudak (Public Transportation Representative)
Craig Tufts, (Bicycling Community)
Sheila Zakre (At-Large)
Edward Roberge, City Engineer (City Manager's Designee)

Members Absent:

Jennifer Kretovic (Council Representative)
Rob Werner (Council Representative)

Staff and Guests:

Robert Baker - Resident

1. Call to Order

The meeting opened as a continuation of the recessed meeting of July 27, 2017. The Chair called the recessed meeting to order and where the item that was continued is scheduled to be discussed this evening, Councilor Todd made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ursula Maldonado. The Chair then called the August 24, 2017 meeting to order with introductions for all attendees. The attending guest was present for all agenda items.

2. Approval of Minutes – July 27 and August 10, 2017

The minutes of the July 27, 2017 and the August 10, 2017 meetings were approved as amended in discussion (Motion-Todd; Second-Maldonado; Unanimous).

3. Presentations – None

4. Public Comment

Robert Baker, Concord resident, attended the meeting with no specific comment. Dick Lemieux invited him to participate in any of the meeting discussions.

5. New Business - None

6. Old Business

a. Pleasant Street Rezoning Proposal

The Chair noted that the full TPAC committee had developed a draft report and distributed it previously. The latest Draft copy was made available for final review. After a brief review, members noted minor edits. Ed Roberge suggested that the final report be placed on TPAC letterhead instead of Engineering Services letterhead. The Committee concurred. Minor edits to the report and the effective approval date will be revised, and the Draft watermark will be removed. Ed Roberge also noted that consideration of the Pleasant Street Rezoning Proposal was postponed at the August Planning Board meeting and that the final document will be forwarded to the City Planner for inclusion in the project record. The final report was approved (Motion-Maldonado; Second-Sudak; Unanimous).

7. Consent Reports

Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes

The following subcommittee reports were accepted by unanimous consent: Traffic Operations – July 18 and August 15, 2017.

8. City Council Meeting Update

Councilor Todd noted that Council received a referral from Interchange Development LLC requesting relief from property covenants and request for rezoning Whitney Road/Hoit Road (US Route 4) parcels. The project contemplates development of commercial and industrial land uses on the parcels adjacent to the Mobil Station and Concord Crossing. Whitney Road is planned for extension to Sewalls Falls Road in the City's CIP. Councilor Todd also noted that funds for several CIP projects including the rehabilitation of the Concord Airport Taxiway A for Runway 17/35 were appropriated.

Ed Roberge also noted that several Traffic Operations Committee reports related to traffic speeds and signage were approved.

9. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

a. Referral from Councilor Kretovic regarding a resident request for review of the curb line constructed at the driveway to #244 N. State Street

Ed Roberge reported that Engineering staff has met with the resident and a contract is pending with the contractor that completed the work on the US Route 3 project. Adjustments to the driveway opening and sidewalk ramp will be completed to provide better access to the site. The contractor is currently working on other project in Concord and will return to this site in late summer/early fall.

10. Status Report on Subcommittees

a. Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (TPAC-BP), Craig Tufts

Craig Tufts noted that the committee was appreciative of the letters and reports forwarded to NHDOT in conjunction with pavement markings on the Sheep Davis Road/NH Route 106 and the US Route 202 connector projects. Dick Lemieux shared photos taken earlier that day showing pavement marking pre-marks along the NH 106 project which indicates a wider shoulder than previous.

Craig Tufts reported that the committee continues its discussions on the need for the State to consider a State-wide Complete Streets Policy. After a brief discussion, TPAC thought it might be helpful to engage Councilor Shurtleff, Minority House Leader and member of City Council at an upcoming TPAC meeting to discuss the benefits and importance of a State-wide Complete Streets Policy. Councilor Todd indicated he would reach out to Councilor Shurtleff.

Craig Tufts also noted that the committee has identified locations for bike position markings at traffic signals. Ed Roberge indicated that discussions between City Council and the City Manager prompted General Services to plan to include the painting in their work plan. Engineering will work with the Central NH Bike Coalition (CNHBC) to purchase a stencil for GSD's use. Ed Roberge also noted that GSD will be painting sharrows along the North-South Bike Route soon.

Craig Tufts indicated that the committee is interested in knowing how recent discussions with Bike Share vendors and Community Development Administration went. Ed Roberge indicated that the Deputy City Manager, City Planner, City Engineer, and staff conducted conference calls to vendors. Ed Roberge will coordinate with Heather Shank, City Planner to provide an update to TPAC at its September 28th meeting.

b. Public Transportation Committee (TPAC-PT), Sheila Zakre

Sheila Zakre reported that the committee continued its discussions on winter maintenance at bus stops and distributed a report from the subcommittee to TPAC. After a brief discussion, Councilor Todd indicated that changes in current GSD maintenance processes would need to come from the City Manager and/or City Council. The committee encouraged Sheila to meet with the City Manager to outline the public transportation committee's issues and request change in service. Sheila Zakre will reach out to Tom Aspell to discuss.

Sheila Zakre also reported that Dean Williams of CNHRPC will be conducting boarding and alighting studies in the next week or so and she encouraged all committee members to participate if possible. Additionally, the Concord Area Transit study for the consulting firm RLS is underway. Surveys should be going out soon to riders and the general public related to service and needs.

c. Traffic Operations Committee (TOC), Rob Mack

In Rob Mack's absence, Ed Roberge reported that TOC met briefly and discussed several speed and sign requests, as well as reviewed monthly crash reports.

11. Staff Updates

a. Loudon Road Corridor Improvements (CIP 19)

Ed Roberge reported that the Loudon Road project is underway. Paving improvements should be complete by mid-September.

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

Ed Roberge reported that construction continues on the roundabout project. Work has been focused on pavement reclamation, grading, and shaping in anticipation to paving late next week. Several comments regarding traffic control and flagging were made by members. The project is anticipated to be complete by mid-October.

c. Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP 543)

Ed Roberge reported that the project has been focused on environmental permitting review for the past 6 months or so. Final wetland permit documents were submitted to staff for review this week. An updated project schedule was prepared indicating permitting and project bidding thorough late summer/fall with early 2018 construction.

Dick Lemieux reported that the FOMRGT have collected 1,500 petition signatures urging the State to acquire the recently abandoned Pan Am rail line – contiguous with the Northern Rail Trail. The committee has been discussing options to provide a project update report to City Council and present the petitions. Dick Lemieux specifically asked TPAC to support a request to City Council to urge the State to acquire the rail corridor as soon as possible. Following a brief discussion, TPAC members concurred and Dick Lemieux will request a meeting with Tom Aspell, City Manager, to discuss City

Council presentation options. The initial thought is that FOMRGT will present to City Council at its September meeting.

d. I-93 Bow-Concord (NHDOT)

Ed Roberge indicated that there has been no City action to report on this project since the last update provided. The State continues to work with its design team evaluating project alternatives. Robert Baker asked if design considerations include off-system (off-roadway) connections for bicycles and pedestrians to get from one side of I-93 to the other. Ed Roberge reported that City Administration is working closely with the NHDOT design team and a multi-modal corridor is expected.

e. Storrs Street Extension North (CIP 18)

Ed Roberge reported that the Storrs Street Extension project remains on hold pending alternative selection on the I-93 Bow-Concord project. The project has been moved to FY2020 in the City's capital improvement program.

12. Other Discussion Items

Dick Lemieux indicated that he had come across roadway conditions recently in very poor shape including Bog Road and a portion of Loudon Road under the I-93/Exit 14 overpass. Ed Roberge indicated that the Loudon Road underpass issue has been identified and will be repaired in conjunction with the Loudon Road corridor pavement improvements within the next few weeks. With respect to Bog Road, Ed Roberge will pass the information along to GSD.

Dick Lemieux also inquired if any decisions had been made on the use of \$750,000 recently provided to Concord for transportation improvements as part of the State's FY2018 formula-based Highway Preservation Fund. Councilor Todd indicated that the City Manager would be providing options for Council's consideration at a future meeting.

Robert Baker inquired as to where the bike racks at City Hall went. Additionally, he noted that the bike rack at the City Library is a "wheel bender" and should be replaced to better accommodate bikes. After a brief discussion, TPAC concurred that as a community with the Complete Streets Policy and designated as a Bike Friendly Community, all City facilities should have proper bike racks. Ed Roberge indicated that he would address this with the City Manager.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at about 9:00 PM.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: September 28, 2017
 October 26, 2017
 November 16, 2017