



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

DATE: February 28, 2019

SUBJECT: Report from the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee recommending transportation project priorities for the FY 2020-2029 Capital Improvements Program.

Recommendation

Accept this report.

Background

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) reviewed the transportation-related projects in the current Capital Improvements Program (CIP) at its February 28, 2019 meeting and recommends that select projects be considered by City Council as they plan project priorities for the FY 2020-2029 (CIP).

Discussion

Sidewalk and Streetscape Projects

Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP543). TPAC strongly endorses continued efforts to promote and develop the Merrimack River Greenway Trail. This facility would not only complete a missing link within New Hampshire's existing state-wide rail-trail system, but would enhance livability for the Concord community by providing energy-sustainable transportation and recreational choices. This project also provides regional benefits, thus opportunities for State/Federal funding should be sought.

Sidewalk, Bikeway and Streetscape Improvements (CIP 17). TPAC fully endorses elements of this ongoing project that enhances sidewalk, bikeway and streetscape improvements city-wide in conjunction with the City's street-paving program.

Street Corridor Projects

Langley Parkway (CIP 40). TPAC continues to strongly endorse a high priority for construction of the Phase 3 extension of Langley Parkway from Pleasant Street to N. State Street. Development of an alternative access route to the regional medical center is critical in terms of maintaining reliable access for emergency responders as well as to service increasingly heavy regional traffic flows to/from the medical and office complexes in that area that are currently

overwhelming the local residential street network in the West End. This project also provides regional benefits, thus opportunities for State/Federal funding should be sought.

Storrs Street Extension North (CIP 18). TPAC fully endorses a high priority for development of the Storrs Street extension to Commercial Street/Constitution Avenue. This project is fundamental to promoting and encouraging economic redevelopment in the Opportunity Corridor. A transportation-oriented development should build upon the regional connectivity available via the freeway, bus station and rail corridor. Improved connectivity for non-motorized travel between this area and both the Downtown and Fort Eddy Road areas should be vital components of the redevelopment plan. This project also provides regional benefits, thus opportunities for State/Federal funding should be sought.

Manchester Street - Route 3 South (CIP 36). TPAC also fully endorses this project as a priority project to improve safety and enhance mobility for all users on this major arterial corridor. A complete-streets improvement will ensure safe transportation choices for commuters and residents alike. This project also provides regional benefits, thus opportunities for State/Federal funding should be sought.

Intersection Projects

Broadway/West/McKee Square Intersection Improvements (CIP31). TPAC strongly endorses this project as a priority project to improve safety and reduce delays for high volumes of motor vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists. The intersection is a major travel hub in the South End, services a village commercial center and lies along a major walk-to-school route.

Hoit/Whitney Road Intersection Improvements (CIP 30). TPAC fully endorses this project as a priority project to improve safety and enhance accessibility to the Whitney Road corridor. This corridor provides opportunity for enhanced economic development as well as improved retail and commercial choices for residents and visitors alike. This project also provides regional benefits, thus opportunities for State/Federal funding should be sought.

Pleasant/Warren/Fruit Intersection Improvements (CIP 570). TPAC fully endorses this project as a priority project to improve safety and reduce delays for high volumes of motor vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists. As reported in prior area studies, this intersection improvement would be most effective if done after Langley Parkway is complete; lower intersection traffic volumes due to traffic diversion to the new parkway results in a smaller intersection improvement need.

Traffic Signals and Traffic Operations Improvements (CIP 283). TPAC fully endorses elements of this ongoing project that enhances vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian safety. Included would be: updated pedestrian signals and pushbuttons; signal heads with reflectorized back plates; video vehicle/bicycle detection; and other improvements that promote consistency of intersection traffic operation across the city.

These recommendations are consistent with the city's Comprehensive Transportation Policy, and in particular its stated goal to *"have a complete multi-modal transportation system that serves residents, employees, visitors and businesses, and achieves the overarching goals of safety, economic vitality, enhanced quality of life, community health and environmental and fiscal sustainability."*

rjm/TPAC

cc: TPAC