

**City of Concord
Transportation Policy Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 17, 2015 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm
City Hall Council Chambers

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Dick Lemieux, being unable to attend tonight, arranged to have Brent Todd fill in as Chair. Brent Todd was delayed by a few minutes, so Byron Champlin started the meeting in his stead by calling the meeting to order. Brent Todd took over as Chair beginning with Agenda Item 9. Those in attendance included:

Committee Members Present:

Brent Todd (Council Representative)
Byron Champlin (Council Representative)
Sheila Zakre (At-Large)
Ursula Maldonado (At-Large)
Jim Sudak (Public Transportation Representative)
Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer (City Manager's Designee)

Committee Members Not Present:

Dick Lemieux (At-Large - Chair)
Rob Werner (Council Representative)
Tom Irwin (At-Large)
Craig Tufts, (Bicycling Community)

Staff, Visitors and Guests Present:

Nancy Larson (City Planner)

2. Approval of October 22, 2015 meeting minutes

The November 19, 2015 minutes were approved as submitted and with a minor typographical amendment (Motion-Zakre; Second-Maldonado; 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 – October 5, 2015; Public Transit – September 22 and October 20, 2015; and Traffic Operations – November 17, 2015.

8. City Council Meeting Update

Rob Mack reported that at its December 14, 2015 meeting, Council accepted TPAC's report on the Union Street wheelchair accessibility referral.

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 reported that staff is still developing detailed pavement marking plans for the subject Main Street segments. The development of a TPAC recommendation and report will be continued in January.

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

Rob Mack summarized a number of transportation-related projects in the current FY2016-2025 CIP. Included were: intersection improvements; street corridor improvements; new street construction; and sidewalk/streetscape improvements. TPAC members discussed each project and shared thoughts on project need and priority. After considerable discussion, attendees concurred on several projects that should be given high-priority consideration in the coming year.

TPAC members overwhelmingly supported a highest priority be given to the completion of the ongoing first phase (conversion to three lanes) of the Loudon Road Corridor Improvements Project (CIP 19). This project is expected to provide substantial improvement in crash reduction and safety for all users (motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists). The 'complete-streets' design elements of this improvement will also enhance livability along this highly-populated mixed-use corridor. As example, members noted the remarkable transformation of Main Street to a safer and more-vibrant public space, while still maintaining the needs for vehicle travel and parking, by simply implementing a more-appropriate lane use.

TPAC also concurred that the following projects also be considered as high priority:

Main Street Complete Streets Project (CIP 460) – Complete 'Bookend' Segments Option. The original Main Street Project design included revised lane use and sidewalk improvements between Storrs Street (South) and Storrs Street (North). Because of funding limitations, City Council reduced the Main Street Project limits to between Concord Street and Centre Street. At issue would be the potential conflict and confusion of retaining existing 4-lane markings on the incomplete segments (Concord to Storrs South and Center to Storrs North, dubbed the 'bookend' segments). TPAC fully endorses an option being developed by the project design team that would merely repave and restripe the 'bookend' segments with the originally-

designed lane use and bike lanes; no sidewalk or streetscape work would be included. Staff will detail this option to City Council in March 2016.

Exit 16/Mountain Road/Shawmut Street Roundabout (CIP 24). TPAC fully endorsed this project as a priority project to improve safety for motor vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists.

Traffic Signals and Traffic Operations Improvements (CIP 283); and Neighborhood Safety Improvements (CIP 380). TPAC fully endorsed elements of each of these projects that enhance pedestrian safety. Included would be updated pedestrian signals and pushbuttons at traffic signals, sidewalk improvements that enhance accessibility and installation of bump-outs where feasible to enhance crosswalks.

Staff will submit a report summarizing TPAC's recommended project priorities to City Council for consideration at its January 11, 2016 meeting.

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

Rob Mack presented a map of the city-wide street network including currently-posted speed limits on each street. Notable were individual networks of local neighborhood streets that have a mix of 25 mph and 30 mph postings. Options to make a more uniform application of speed limits include: individually posting each street with appropriate speed limits (involves many sign installations and high cost); or posting a city-wide speed limit that would cover the vast majority of local streets (say at 25 mph) without additional signing, but otherwise keep higher speed limit postings on most of the collector and arterial streets (lower sign cost as most of the collector/arterial streets are currently posted at 30 mph or higher). TPAC concurred that the latter option was reasonable and should be considered further. Staff will develop a worksheet map of suggested speed limits on individual streets for further TPAC consideration.

10. Status report on subcommittees

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

Ursula Maldonado reported that TPAC-Bike/Ped and Central NH Bicycle Coalition are discussing the possibility of a bike lane demonstration project in the downtown area in conjunction with Bike-to-Work Day in May 2016. The demonstration might 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. A similar demonstration was done last year in downtown Keene. Staff was requested to look into the city's permitting process for purpose of determining potential permit requirements and other event planning needs.

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

Tom Irwin reported that TPAC-PT met this month and came to a consensus that CAT and NHDOT should ultimately decide on the type of bus CAT should purchase (front vs. rear engine mount) based on the bids received. Also, a public meeting is being planned to discuss potential CAT route changes in the downtown area along Main Street and Storrs Street.

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

Rob Mack reported that TOC did not meet in December.

11. Staff Updates

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

Rob Mack reported that all construction activity has ended for the season. Work on S. Main Street will begin next spring.

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 will be placed next spring.

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

Rob Mack reported that work continues on removal of the existing bridge truss.

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

Rob Mack reported that final design is nearing completion and right-of-way coordination is underway. Advertisement for construction bids is anticipated in February 2016. City Council plans to discuss project and funding status at its January 2016 meeting.

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 January or early February. Design will continue through the winter with construction planned for next spring or summer.

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

Rob Mack reported that City Council accepted the funding donated for the project.

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

Rob Mack noted there was nothing new to report.

12. Other Discussion Items

None

13. Adjourn

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

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