



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

MINUTES

Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

September 28, 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)
Jennifer Kretovic (Council Representative)
Craig Tufts, (Bicycling Community)
Sheila Zakre (At-Large)
Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer (City Manager's Designee)

Members Absent:

Rob Werner (Council Representative)
Jim Sudak (Public Transportation Representative)
Ursula Maldonado (Pedestrian and Trails Community)

Staff and Guests:

Ed Roberge – City Engineer
Heather Shank - City Planner
Rebecca McWilliams – Resident

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order with introductions for all attendees.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 24, 2017 meeting were approved with minor amendment to Item 10a to refer to bike 'position' rather than bike 'box' (Motion-Todd; Second-Kretovic; Unanimous).

3. Presentations – None

4. Public Comment - None

5. New Business - None

6. Old Business

a. Pleasant Street Rezoning Proposal

Not discussed.

7. Consent Reports

a. Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes

The following subcommittee reports were accepted by unanimous consent: Bicycle/Pedestrian – July 17, 2017; Public Transportation – July 25 and August 22, 2017; and Traffic Operations – September 19, 2017.

8. City Council Meeting Update

Ed Roberge reported that at its September 11, 2017 meeting, City Council accepted the following: TPAC's recommendation to ask NHDOT to restripe portions of Sheep Davis Road and the I-393 Connector to provide wider shoulders for bicycles; TPAC's recommendation for city support regarding NHDOT's potential acquisition of Pan Am Railroad right-of-way for rail-trail use; and reappointments of Craig Tufts and Sheila Zakre to TPAC with new terms to expire April 2020.

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 a solution amenable to the property owner had been reached and that the contractor would be making curb modifications in about three weeks.

b. Referral from Councilor Kretovic regarding a resident concern on traffic safety on Sewalls Falls Road at the Beaver Meadow School during parent pick-up/drop-off times.

Councilor Kretovic referred a concern from a constituent regarding traffic safety, including: a car recently rear-ending another while stopping for a stopped school bus; speeding along Sewalls Falls Road; and southbound vehicles bypassing stopped vehicles waiting to turn left into the school driveway. Requested is installation of traffic signals or multi-way stop control at the Sewalls Falls Road/Second Street/Sylvester Street intersection. Rob Mack reported that he had begun looking into the matter and was awaiting feedback on enforcement from CPD. He noted that the intersection did not have a significant crash history and that TOC had earlier this year found that sight lines at the Sewalls Falls Road/Second Street/Sylvester Street intersection were reasonable. Staff would report back to TPAC at the next meeting.

10. Status Report on Subcommittees

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

Sheila Zakre reported that the TPAC-PT met last week concurrently with CNHRPC's public meeting regarding the ongoing CAT Service Study. Public feedback about CAT service was generally positive, although several concerns were noted including: sidewalk snow removal on Loudon Road; bus cleanliness; need for later-evening service; and need for a common downtown transfer point for all three CAT routes. She also met with the City Manager to follow up on the subcommittee's recommendation to consider priority snow clearing at the top-ten bus stops; additional information on the time needed to do this additional work is being investigated.

b. Traffic Operations Committee (TOC), Rob Mack

Rob Mack reported that TOC met last week and discussed traffic enforcement efforts along Loudon Road. CPD provided a summary of enforcement actions conducted along Loudon Road on the Heights over a 25-day period in August and September. A breakdown of 215 warnings/citations given includes: improper vehicle equipment - 35%; improper registration/driver's license - 18%; disregard for traffic control devices - 16%; cell phone use - 10%; inappropriate speed - 5%; and other improper driving - 16%. TOC also discussed ongoing significant violations of the prohibited left turn from East Side Drive into the CVS driveway. General Services followed up by installing supplemental signage to better indicate the prohibited movement. Also, Loudon Road pavement markings near the entrance to the Burger King/ CVS site driveway will soon be modified to better indicate the left turn entrance to the site from Loudon Road eastbound.

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

Craig Tufts reported that TPAC-BP met earlier this month and discussed the possibility of inviting CPD to attend an upcoming meeting to share in a continued dialogue regarding bicycle safety in the city. GSD is painting bicycle position markings on loop detectors at select traffic signal intersections to indicate the place for a bicycle or motorcycle to stop to ensure that the signal detects them and gives the green light. Staff collaborated with committee members to field-identify appropriate locations for these markings. The stencils for the markings were funded by the Central NH Bicycle Coalition. The NHDOT had recently revised pavement markings on NH106 over I-393 and I-393 Connector west of Commercial Street as recommended by TPAC to provide additional shoulder width for bicycle travel. One exception was that the markings were not correctly placed on the eastbound side of the I-393 Connector resulting in no significant shoulder offset. Ed Roberge noted he would be meeting with NHDOT administration shortly and would inquire as to what happened.

11. Staff Updates

a. Loudon Road Corridor Improvements (CIP 19)

Ed Roberge reported that final paving was scheduled for early next week and that traffic signal equipment upgrades would occur in the next week or two.

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

Ed Roberge reported that the intersection is now operating as a roundabout while curb, sidewalk and island work continues over the coming weeks. Landscaping work will also be started soon.

c. Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP 543)

Ed Roberge reported that permitting is still underway and that design plans are being finalized. He also noted that Administration has recently concurred with a recommendation to ask City Council for authority to apply for the next round of TIGER Grants for the remainder of the MRGT, from the current project at Terrill Park northward to the Northern Rail Trail at the Boscawen town line. A key consideration in this application would be to solidify the potential to acquire the former railroad right-of-way for public trail use.

d. I-93 Bow-Concord (NHDOT)

Ed Roberge noted that NHDOT continued to refine alternatives, although nothing new was reported in the last month. The NHDOT had previously indicated it hoped to arrive at some preferred alternatives by the end of the year.

e. Storrs Street Extension North (CIP 18)

Ed Roberge noted the project is on hold pending development of preferred alternative in Item 11d above.

12. Other Discussion Items

a. Discussion of updated NH Right-to-Know Law

Rob Mack reported that the City's legal department hosted a presentation last week on the NH Right-to-Know Law. The program was offered to staff and public members of boards and committees, city-wide. TPAC members Rob Mack, Councilor Kretovic and Ursula Maldonado attended the program. Rob Mack noted several items of relevance to TPAC, including: quorum requirements; email communications and meeting minutes.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at about 8:25 PM.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: **October 26, 2017**
 November 16, 2017
 December 14, 2017