



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Karen Hill, P.E., Transportation Engineer, on behalf of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

DATE: May 30, 2024

SUBJECT: Response to City Council Referral in regards to a communication from Ari Pollack requesting consideration be made to relocate the Concord Area Transit (CAT) bus stop now located between 214 and 220 North Main Street in Concord.

Recommendation

Accept this report recommending that the bus stop location between 214 and 220 North Main Street remain in its current location.

Background

At their October 12, 2021 meeting, City Council held a public hearing to amend the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking; Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking; Schedule VII, Bus and Taxicab Stands; together with report from the Transportation Engineer.

During the October 12, 2021 public hearing, City Manager Aspell noted that a request to consolidate two Concord Area Transit (CAT) bus stops had been submitted to the Public Transportation Subcommittee of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC-PT) to reduce potential traffic conflicts. He stated that Engineering staff, in concert with TPAC-PT and CAT management, investigated alternative locations and the recommended solution was to consolidate the two existing bus stops at a new location just south of the signal at North Main Street and Washington Street. The City Manager also explained that there was an existing 11-foot shoulder for the bus to pull off in an existing no parking zone, making it a more attractive location than the existing bus stop, which required the bus to stop in the travel way. It also provided more distance for the driver to negotiate shifting over into the leftmost lane.

There was no public testimony and the amendment passed with no dissenting votes.

On January 8, 2024, City Council forwarded to the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee a referral from City Council regarding a communication from Ari Pollack requesting consideration be made to relocate the Concord Area Transit (CAT) bus stop now located between 214 and 220 North Main Street.

At its January 25, 2024 meeting (minutes attached), the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC, the Committee) discussed the referral. The Committee discussed an analysis matrix, that examined nine potential locations along the east side of North Main Street between Storrs Street and Bouton Street, and laid out the benefits and challenges with accommodating a CAT bus stop at each location. Considerations were:

- Whether the stop is within the travel lane or shoulder;
- The impact to on-street parking;
- Distance from major intersection with additional turn lanes (Storrs and Bouton) (feet);
- Distance from Concord Coalition to End Homelessness (feet);
- Number of northbound travel lanes; and,
- Existing ADA accessibility.

The Committee concurred with the matrix data showing that the current location is the preferable location that adequately addresses safety and accessibility. Moving it would create additional concerns, result in loss of parking, or require additional funding for necessary accommodations.

CAT also performed boarding and alighting counts between January 11-22, 2024 for 7 full days, resulting in a total of 75 boardings and alightings (departures) at the current stop at #220. This equates to approximately 11 per day, which further translates to 3 per day on the crosstown route and 8 per day on the Penacook route.

After much consideration, the Committee recommended that the bus stop location between 214 and 220 North Main Street remain in its current location.

On March 11, 2024, City Council referred the request and consent report back to TPAC because Mr. Pollack was not aware of the meeting and had information he wanted to share in regards to the request.

Discussion

At its May 2, 2024 meeting (minutes attached), TPAC discussed the referral with Ari Pollack, Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell (law firm), representing his request.

Mr. Pollack presented the Committee with reasons for the request to relocate the bus stop and provided the Committee with a packet of materials, including exhibits and photos, which included potential solutions that the law firm has considered. He also presented police call logs and discussed various events that have occurred on the law firm's property since the bus stop was relocated. He also mentioned concerns of patrons loitering in their parking lot. For these reasons, the firm proposed a new location to the south in the front of their building at #214, away from the driveway and parking lot.

The Committee discussed that Pollack's proposed location (at #214) is desirable for patrons congregating at the stop because there is more space with the wider sidewalk and grass strip, however, the new location is less desirable as it would:

- Be further from a signalized crosswalk,
- Further from overhead lighting,
- Have impacts to on-street parking,

- Have less width for the bus to pull over on the busy road; and,
- Need an ADA accessible platform constructed in the grass panel.

The Committee also added the existing location is desirable for safety and bus service operation. The analysis matrix, first discussed at the January 25, 2024 TPAC meeting, was also updated to include this new proposed location (attached).

A motion was made and seconded, to recommend to City Council that the current CAT bus stop located between 214 and 220 North Main Street remain in this location since it is the most suitable location, from a transportation perspective. The motion passed unanimously.

Attachments:

January 25, 2024 TPAC Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2024 DRAFT TPAC Meeting Minutes

N Main Street Bus Stop Analysis Map and Matrix

cc: Transportation Policy Advisory Committee