



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Robert J. Mack, PE, PTOE
Traffic Engineer

DATE: August 28, 2017

SUBJECT: Report from the Traffic Engineer on behalf of the Parking Committee recommending relocation of two CAT bus stops from the intersection of Main and Pleasant Street to the Pleasant Street crosswalk north of State Street.

Recommendation

Accept this report and set a public hearing to amend the Code of Ordinances, Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking; Article 18.1, Stopping, Standing and Parking.

Background

Because of street, sidewalk and parking changes associated with the Main Street Complete Streets Project, it was necessary to explore alternative locations for two Concord Area Transit (CAT) bus stops currently located at the Main/Pleasant intersection. Engineering staff, in concert with CAT staff, investigated alternative locations and suggested relocating both stops about a block to the west on Pleasant Street, just west of the new crosswalk in front of the South Congregational Church. Staff reached out to institutions and businesses in the area of the proposed bus stops for feedback. Staff also presented the proposal to the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee on March 23, 2017. The recommendation to relocate the subject CAT bus stops was considered and approved by the Parking Committee on August 28, 2017.

Discussion

As illustrated on the attached locus map, there are two existing bus stop locations at the Main/Pleasant intersection: one on the westbound side of Pleasant Street just west of Main Street; and one on the northbound side of N. Main Street at the northeast-corner bump-out. These stops service CAT's Crosstown and Penacook bus routes which travel to/from the north on N. Main Street and to/from the west on Pleasant Street. The Main Street Complete Streets project originally planned to relocate the N. Main Street stop to the eastbound side of Pleasant Street near Endicott Furniture; however the need for additional on-street parking there resulted in this bus stop being temporarily retained at its current location at the northwest corner bump-out at the Main/Pleasant intersection. This bump-out location is a poor location for a bus stop due to its proximity to the signalized

intersection and related turning movements. The Main Street Complete Streets project had retained the Pleasant Street stop at its current location near the House of India restaurant. However an unanticipated snow-season concern is the angled curb constructed here in order to improve the sidewalk grade for accessibility; the angled curb is a potential slip concern for CAT passengers.

In an effort to address both issues, staff and CAT collaborated to explore an alternate pair of bus stop locations in the nearby vicinity of Pleasant Street to the west. A prospective location deemed acceptable to CAT was at the recently-reconstructed crosswalk on Pleasant Street in front of the South Congregational Church. This crosswalk features updated accessible sidewalk and ramps. As illustrated in the attached plan, both eastbound and westbound stops would be located immediately west of the crosswalk. This location minimizes the conversion of existing on-street parking here, displacing only three metered spaces. These three displaced metered spaces would be offset by the proposed addition of three new metered spaces at the location of the existing westbound CAT bus stop near the House of India Restaurant.

Engineering staff discussed the proposed bus stop location with abutting businesses and institutions last winter, including: South Congregational Church; Phenix Mutual Fire Insurance; and Riverbend Community Mental Health. All organizations were generally amenable to the change. The South Congregational Church noted a concern on potential reduction in on-street parking in front of the church during church services and events and that this area was used for hearse parking during occasional funeral services. Staff and CAT concurred that this concern could be mitigated by allowing vehicles to park in the bus stop during CAT's non-operating times (e.g. weekdays from 7:00 PM to 6:00 AM and Saturdays and Sundays); this would be a new item on the bus and taxicab stand ordinance. Temporary hearse parking in the bus stop during CAT operating hours would also be acceptable to CAT if the church informs CAT in advance.

Several amendments to the Parking Ordinance are recommended:

- Deleting the current bus stop locations at the Main/Pleasant intersection;
- Amending the bus and taxicab stand ordinance to include a bus stop during certain hours;
- Adding the two new bus stop locations west of the crosswalk at the South Congregational Church; and
- Amending the currently-specified location of both prohibited parking and the location of parking meters along this section of Pleasant Street for consistency with the items proposed above.

The Parking Committee reviewed and endorsed the subject bus stop relocations, as well as the associated proposed amendments to the Ordinance, on August 28, 2017.

Attachment: Location Map

Cc: Parking Committee; Jim Sudak, CAT Transit