



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

MINUTES

Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

April 27, 2017, 6:00 PM
2nd Floor Budget 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)
Ursula Maldonado (Pedestrian and Trails Community)
Craig Tufts, (Bicycling Community)
Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer (City Manager's Designee)

Members Absent:

Rob Werner (Council Representative)
Jim Sudak (Public Transportation Representative)
Sheila Zakre (At-Large)

Staff and Guests:

Ed Roberge – City Engineer
Heather Shank - City Planner

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 23, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted (Motion-Maldonado; Second-Kretovic; Unanimous).

3. Presentations – None

4. Public Comment - None

5. New Business - None

6. Old Business

a. Review of TPAC-Bike/Ped plans for a bike-lane/cycle-track demonstration

Craig Tufts reported that TPAC-BP met earlier this month and continued planning for the proposed bike-lane/cycle-track demonstration project on Broadway during the National Night Out event. A

meeting with the Concord Police Department to discuss the proposal was being planned. Fliers describing the demonstration had been circulated to properties abutting the section of Broadway between Rollins Park and Pillsbury Street.

7. Consent Reports

a. Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes

The following subcommittee reports were accepted by unanimous consent: Bicycle/Pedestrian – March 6, 2017; Public Transportation – March 21, 2017; and Traffic Operations – March 21, 2017.

8. City Council Meeting Update

Rob Mack reported that at its April 10, 2017 meeting, City Council accepted TOC's recommendation to revise the traffic signal operation at the Pleasant/Green/South intersection. The changes are planned to be implemented by staff on May 1, 2017.

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

At issue is a request by Ed Rascka of #244 N. State Street to reconstruct portion of the raised curb that was constructed along his driveway as part of the US 3 North Improvements Project (CIP35). His concern is that the curbing narrowed his driveway width and he has punctured his tire more than once on the curb corner. Ed Roberge presented photographs of Mr. Rascka's driveway before and after the reconstruction. He noted that the addition of curbing did not change the width of the driveway and was in fact constructed as agreed to with Mr. Rascka prior to the project. Ed Roberge noted that he met last week with the Mr. Rascka to discuss the issue further and has requested an estimate from the project contractor to make minor adjustments. If such minor adjustments are realistic within the remaining project funds, the adjustment could be considered. Ed Roberge will report back to TPAC at the next meeting.

10. Status Report on Subcommittees

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

Craig Tufts reported that TPAC-BP met earlier this month and: continued planning for the proposed bike-lane/cycle-track demonstration project on Broadway; investigated painting bike symbols on select traffic signal street approaches at vehicle-detector 'sweet spots' to improve detection of bicycles by the signal controller; discussed the courthouse site redevelopment project; and discussed a resident request for a crosswalk on Clinton Street at Harvard Street. Also, the Planning Board had adopted the Pedestrian Master Plan which will be presented to City Council later in the summer.

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

Rob Mack reported that TPAC-PT met last week and continued to discuss the issue of sidewalk snow maintenance at bus stops. The subcommittee is recommending consideration of making snow plowing a 'high priority' at the top-ten high-use bus stops in the city. 'High priority' would be the same as the sidewalks in the downtown area. Of the ten stops, four were already high-priority due to their downtown location. One stop on Ormond Street with 'normal priority' was felt acceptable due to low street traffic volumes. The remaining five stops (on US 3 North, and Loudon Road) would be increased from 'normal and school-route' priorities to 'high priority'.

c. Traffic Operations Committee (TOC), Rob Mack

Rob Mack reported that TOC did not meet this month.

11. Staff Updates

a. Loudon Road Corridor Improvements (CIP 19)

Ed Roberge reported that staff has revised the corridor improvement plans to repave the four existing lanes and add access management features. Construction bid documents have just been advertised.

Rob Mack noted that the current plan closes/narrows select driveway openings along the corridor to the extent that nearly 700 feet of new sidewalk and curb are added.

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

Ed Roberge reported that a neighborhood meeting was held on April 4, 2017 to discuss the construction aspects of the project. Construction is now underway with current efforts focused on utility relocation.

c. Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP 543)

Ed Roberge reported that VHB continues to refine alternative alignments for the trail at the request of NHDES to better facilitate their review of potential environmental impacts and avoidance. Craig Tufts reported that CNHRPC met with NHDOT and Pan-Am regarding the potential discontinuance of the Pan-Am rail line north of Horseshoe Pond. NHDOT would consider purchasing the rail line once Pan-Am makes a price offering. He suggested that it could be beneficial for the city and other interested groups to participate with NHDOT in this consideration.

d. I-93 Bow-Concord (NHDOT)

Ed Roberge noted that there was nothing new to report since last month. NHDOT had indicated a goal to reach a consensus on a preferred alternative by the end of the year.

e. Storrs Street Extension North (CIP 18)

Ed Roberge reported that staff had met with both Pan-Am Railroad and NHDOT to discuss implications of the project's alternatives on Pan-Am's rail facilities there. Although a report detailing the preliminary study of alternatives (to date) will be submitted in the coming months, Administration has put further development of this project on hold until the NHDOT better defines its intended alternative(s) for the I-93 Bow-Concord study.

12. Other Discussion Items

a. Pleasant Street Rezoning Proposal

Heather Shank noted that Concord Orthopedics is requesting consideration of rezoning an area of Pleasant Street west of Langley Parkway from residential to institutional. The applicant is preparing a traffic study of the rezoning proposal which will be reviewed by city staff prior to submission to the Planning Board. Staff will endeavor to provide TPAC with an opportunity to discuss and comment on the study results after staff has had a chance to review it.

b. Main Street Complete Streets Project Awards

Councilor Todd wanted to recognize recent awards received regarding the Main Street Complete Streets Project. The project was nationally recognized as one of the American Public Works Association's '2017 Public Works Projects of the Year'. The project also received recognition from the NH Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Consultants, 2017 Engineering Excellence Awards, Gold Award for Design.

c. Next Meeting Date

Due to a City Council budget hearing scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2017, attendees concurred to reschedule TPAC's next meeting for Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 6:00 PM.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at about 8:20 PM.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: **May 24, 2017**
 June 22, 2017
 July 27, 2017