



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

DATE: December 21, 2015

SUBJECT: Report from the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee recommending transportation project priorities for Calendar Years 2016-2017.

Recommendation

Accept this report.

Background

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) reviewed the transportation-related projects in the current CIP at its December 17, 2015 meeting and recommends that select projects be considered by City Council in their upcoming priority-setting session for Calendar Years 2016-2017.

Discussion

TPAC restates its overwhelming support and highest priority for 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, TPAC notes 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. A more detailed description of TPAC's prior endorsement of the Loudon Road project is included in their January 24, 2014 report to City Council (attached).

TPAC also strongly supports a high priority on the following projects:

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 endorses 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.

These recommendations are consistent with the city's Comprehensive Transportation Policy, and in particular its stated goal to *"have a complete multi-modal transportation system that serves residents, employees, visitors and businesses, and achieves the overarching goals of safety, economic vitality, enhanced quality of life, community health and environmental and fiscal sustainability."*

rjm/TPAC

Attachment

cc: TPAC