



CITY OF CONCORD
New Hampshire's Main Street™
Community Development
Department

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Sam Durfee, Senior Planner
DATE: July 26, 2019
SUBJECT: Bicycle Demonstration Project

Recommendation

Accept this report and the recommendation from the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee to permit a one day demonstration project consisting of protected bike lanes on South Street and bump outs at the Broadway/Pillsbury Street intersection on October 2, 2019.

Background

Planning and Engineering staff have been working with the TPAC Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee (TPAC BP) to identify an appropriate location for and means of constructing a temporary bike lane demonstration project in the City of Concord. The project is consistent with the goals of the 2010 Bicycle Master Plan to encourage a safe, easily navigable, marked bike route network in the City of Concord. This report is intended as a follow up to the April report to clarify project details and present a summary of outreach efforts.

Two locations have been selected as part of this proposed demonstration project. South Street, between Allison Street and the Abbot-Downing/Rundlett driveway would host one of the protected bike lanes. The proposal maintains 12-foot vehicle travel lanes, adjacent to proposed 3-foot buffers and 5-foot wide bicycle lanes (graphics attached).

The Broadway and Pillsbury Street intersection is the second location for this proposed project where bump outs on the south side of the intersection would be demonstrated (see attached graphic).

This project, with these two elements, was suggested by TPAC-BP because both elements build on a previous Safe Route to School Project and South Street has been identified in the 2010 Bicycle Master Plan as a key element of the North-South Bike Route. Additionally, the bump outs represent a portion of a priority project identified by TPAC. This demonstration would serve as a preview of that project. Both bicycle and pedestrian elements were incorporated into the

demonstration to reflect more fully the bicycle and pedestrian goals of the Subcommittee.

Staff has applied to the Southern NH Planning Commission (SNHPC) through their Pop-Up Planning program for materials to construct these temporary installations. Pending approval from City Council, Staff will borrow portable bollards, spray-chalk, nylon rope, reflective tape, planters, and artificial grass pads for project construction.

Staff worked with CNHRPC to collect bicycle count data between September 28th and October 12th of 2018 to establish a baseline of bicycle traffic. Staff plans to conduct counts at this location during and after the demonstration project in order to gauge the impact the project may have had on bicycle riding along the route.

Outreach

Planning staff has met with the principals of Abbot-Downing and Rundlett Schools, and also spoken with property owners directly abutting the demonstration projects to explain the project and address concerns and answer questions. The school principals responded positively to the proposed project and considered using the project as an opportunity for a bicycle safety education event. Both principals offered to send emails containing an informational flyer for the project to their respective mailing lists so that students and their parents will be informed of the project and also be made aware that the schools support it.

On July 26th, letters were sent to the abutters of the proposed project areas to inform them of the project and the impacts as well as to advise them that this proposal would be reviewed by City Council at its August 12th meeting.

Staff and members of TPAC-BP plan to work with the City's PIO and contact the Concord Insider in order to raise further awareness of the demonstration project.

Day-of Logistics

The terms of SNHPC's Pop-Up Planning application state that the project for which the materials are being used may only occur during daylight hours and must be supervised through the duration of the demonstration. TPAC-BP will coordinate with volunteers from the NH Bicycling Coalition to set up the project for 7 AM on October 2 and will breakdown the project for 6:30 PM. Staff will work with TPAC-BP to identify volunteers to supervise both portions of the demonstration project during the day. Staff will coordinate with other City departments as needed to ensure safety.