

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2021**

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 6:00 pm on August 26, 2021, in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street.

Members Present: Dick Lemieux (Chair), Gregory Bakos, Craig Tufts, Councilor Zandra Rice-Hawkins, Councilor Brent Todd, Mayor Bouley

Members Absent: Councilor Rob Werner, Terri Paige

Guests: Ian McGregor, Ted Diers (Tree Committee Chair)

City Staff: Sam Durfee (Senior Planner), Karen Hill (Transportation Engineer)

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes – July 22, 2021

The meeting minutes of July 22, 2021 were approved as amended. *Motion:* Bouley. *Second:* Tufts. *Abstain:* Rice-Hawkins. *Unanimous.*

3. Public Comment

Chair opened the meeting for public comment; no comments were presented.

4. New Business

None.

5. Old Business

a. Discuss Shared-Use Path alignment between Loudon Road Bridge and Storrs Street

It was discussed that this item should be discussed at the Bike-Ped committee level first. There is an opportunity now, to connect across the Loudon Road Bridge to Fort Eddy, but future connections will likely not happen until the Bow-Concord project moves forward.

Lemieux asked City Staff to contact the property owner at the southeast corner of bridge to discuss potential trail alignment along the river in the vicinity of the parking lot.

Mcgregor asked about Greenway Trail parking. Lemieux stated that there is currently parking at Terrill Park will be opportunities as the project moves forward. It is intended to be a linear transportation facility.

The committee also discussed the importance of expressing the need for a trail connection through the future Stickney Ave development.

b. *Discuss South Street and S State Street Potential Improvements with FY23 Paving Program*

Tufts informed the committee of the site walk that was completed by the Bike-Ped Subcommittee, Tree Committee, and City staff. The walk took place along S State Street and South Street to look at areas for potential improvements to be coordinated with the fiscal year 2023 paving program, which is proposing to reclaim both roadways.

Potential improvements may include curb bumpouts at intersections and crosswalks to enhance pedestrian safety and introduce traffic calming to these corridors, as well as strategic locations for tree plantings. Ted Diers discussed that the tree canopy has decreased by 38.5% since the last tree inventory.

It was discussed that this effort could be a pilot project, to try to work all of these potential improvements together, if successful, it could be used as a model moving forward.

The committee discussed that there is an abundance of pavement at the intersection of S State and S Main Street. Hill mentioned that re-alignment of that intersection is in the CIP and it requires substantial Right-of-Way impacts; it will likely not happen as a part of this project.

The committee discussed the need to have a neighborhood meeting to discuss the potential improvements. Mayor Bouley suggested mimicking the Parking Committee – Narrow Streets format as it has been incredibly successful.

The next steps will be to identify key sites, host a neighborhood meeting in the beginning of October, obtain additional costs to present to Council, then incorporate into the paving program. All of this will need to be discussed with General Services.

The overall goal of the committee is to coordinate future improvements with the paving program one to two years in advance, to better align CIP projects and tree plantings.

6. Consent Reports

- a. *Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes*
 - i. *TPAC-BP: None*
 - ii. *TPAC-PT: None*

7. City Council Meeting Update

Referred items below, 8a and 8b.

Greg Bakos has been reappointed to TPAC.

Additional funding was accepted for the Canterbury improvements associated with the Hoit Road-Whitney Road Intersection Improvement Project.

8. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

- a. *Referral from City Council regarding the petition from residents, staff members and visitors to Havenwood/Heritage Heights requesting consideration be made for traffic safety improvements on Christian Avenue in Concord.*

Hill went through the history of this request as it comes up every couple of years as residents and leadership turnover at Havenwood.

Mayor Bouley discussed the smaller number of curb cuts on the south side versus the north side. He mentioned that drivers are coming off of I-393 and cut through Christian Ave to avoid the traffic signal at Loudon Road.

TPAC members would like the recommendation to come from TOC.

- b. *Referral from City Council regarding communication from Dawn Pollinger, Penacook resident, requesting consideration be given to traffic safety improvements on Elm Street in Penacook.*

The committee discussed the difficult corner created by the combination of horizontal and vertical curvature. Hill will place traffic and speed counter over the next few weeks. Hill will obtain accident data from Concord Police Department. Discussions included the possibility of additional signage and enforcement. Hill will follow up with committee after data is collected.

- c. *Councilor Rice-Hawkins inquired about the status of the Neighborhood Traffic Subcommittee.*

It was discussed that the committee would need a clear charge and would need to not overlap with TOC. Hill would like to discuss this at the overall TPAC level, if it becomes too much in the future, then consider a subcommittee.

9. Status Report on Subcommittees

- a. *Public Transportation Committee (TPAC-PT), Terri Paige*

Paige absent. Hill held a brief discussion on rebranding, fare free, new buses.

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

Tufts mentioned that the committee completed the S State and South Street walk, but had not had a formal meeting since the last TPAC Meeting.

Durfee discussed that the CNHRPC intern completed an existing sidewalk conditions inventory for Downtown Concord, the Heights and Penacook, using SADES program. They are working on processing the data. He added that staff will supplement the sidewalk priority list with this new information to better prioritize new and existing sidewalks.

Mayor Bouley asked the committee to evaluate the existing bike rack locations throughout the City, specifically downtown.

Mayor Bouley asked the committee to discuss Main Street parking space usage and outdoor seating at a future meeting. Discussions may include continuance, safety, compensation, aesthetics, bicycle-pedestrian safety and shared public space...etc.

Mayor Bouley also mentioned the importance of the Storrs Street to Main Street pedestrian connections, Low Ave, Kennedy Lane, and the alley ways. The committee discussed the opportunity for mixed-use, vehicle and pedestrian spaces and the need to be forward thinking to maintain these safe pedestrians access points that allow pedestrians to be better separated from traffic.

It was also discussed that the committee should strive to be proactive instead of reactive and to act as a Council Advisory Committee.

c. *Traffic Operations Committee (TOC), Karen Hill*

Hill mentioned that TOC is responding to a variety of citizen concerns/requests through the new SeeClickFix program. Requests include, stop signs, signage, and crosswalks. Other reoccurring concerns are in regards to speeding on various streets throughout the City.

Hill mentioned that TOC is discussing potential modifications to the Bouton/N Main/393 intersection after receiving numerous concerns about the signal head placement and accident history.

Mayor Bouley asked if the City has an inventory of signs or a sign policy for adding or replacing signs. Hill responded that the GIS department has this information but is not aware of an overall sign policy, just specific policies for stop signs and other commonly requested signs.

10. Staff Updates

a. *Storrs Street Extension (CIP 18)*

The project is on hold.

b. *Whitney Road / Hoit Road Intersection (CIP 30)*

Construction will begin over the next few weeks on Whitney Road as well as overall site clearing along Whitney Road and Hoit Road.

c. *Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP 543)*

Discussed the need for a trail master plan during item 5a.

d. *Langley Parkway Phase Three (CIP 40)*

Mayor Bouley mentioned that the census data showed growth in Wards 1,2,3, and 10. Population growth, coupled with increased fire response times may lead to a renewed discussion and need for this project.

e. *Loudon Road Bridge (CIP 588)*

Discussed during item 5a.

f. *I-93 Bow-Concord*

Mayor Bouley discussed that there is new energy beginning to surround this project and hopes that discussions will resume again soon.

11. *Other Discussion Items*

Tufts asked the committee about the I-89 Exit 2 project, stating that there is still discussion about whether to construct a roundabout or signal and how sidewalks within the project area are contributing to the decision.

The committee will discuss CIP priorities at the October meeting.

12. *Adjourn*

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm by unanimous consent.

13. *Upcoming Meeting Dates*

September 23, 2021

October 28, 2021