



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Heather Shank, City Planner
DATE: August 2, 2017
SUBJECT: Request to NHDOT to narrow the lane widths on Sheep Davis Road (NH 106) to eleven (11) feet during the scheduled 2017 summer repaving

Recommendation

Accept this report.

Background

In January of 2010 the Concord City Council unanimously adopted a Comprehensive Transportation Policy based on “complete streets” principles, which guide street design to reasonably accommodate all users: pedestrians, bicyclists, automobiles and public transit.

Discussion

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) is in the midst of a repaving project (Project Number 40870) on Sheep Davis Road that will extend from 100 feet south of the entrance to Continental Paving northerly to a pavement joint north of Autumn Drive.

The New Hampshire Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, adopted by NHDOT in May of 2000, includes the objective: “The NHDOT will, as part of its normal road striping operations on resurfaced roads, restripe roads to allow for paved shoulders where none exist now, as long as travel lanes meet width requirement.” The Department’s standard practice is to re-stripe 12-foot lanes where more than 24 feet of pavement width is available.

The Southbound lanes of Sheep Davis Road that run from the southbound ramp exiting I-393 to Loudon Road (Fig. 1) exceed the NHDOT requirement of 24 feet of pavement required to request lane width reallocation. TPAC has reviewed concerns of cyclists who pass through this

area that there is currently less separation from traffic in this particular spot than elsewhere in the corridor. Travel lanes could be restriped to widths of 11 feet along this segment and would provide for an increased shoulder width that would extend the existing bicycle facilities and provide improved safety for cyclists. NHDOT has indicated that they would be amenable to the request if made by the City. TPAC recommended that the City Manager send such a request to NHDOT. Typically, such a request would be brought to Council's attention for direction. Unfortunately, due to NHDOT's current work program, there was some urgency to this request to ensure that NHDOT would be in a position to make the adjustments prior to final striping. Since the request was in conformance with Council's Complete Streets Policy and did not make a significant, substantive change, the City Manager issued the attached letter on August 2nd.