



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

MINUTES

Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

January 25, 2018, 6:00 PM
2nd Floor 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)
Sheila Zakre (At-Large)
Craig Tufts, (Bicycling Community)
Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer (City Manager's Designee)

Members Absent:

Jim Sudak (Public Transportation Representative)
Rob Werner (Council Representative)
Ursula Maldonado (Pedestrian and Trails Community)

Staff and Guests:

John Stoll (Senior Planner)
Rebecca McWilliams
Greg Bakos

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order with introductions by all attendees.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 14, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted (Motion-Todd; Second-Lemieux; Unanimous).

3. Public Comment - None

4. Presentations

a. Discussion of I-93 Bow-Concord and Merrimack River Greenway Trail Recommendations within the Opportunity Corridor

Attendees viewed and discussed NHDOT's Concept F2 for the Exit14/15 area as posted on the NHDOT's project web page. It was not known if this was the latest alternative being considered by NHDOT, but it was an illustrative example of the project work, opportunities and impacts in the area.

Recommendations for the MRGT through this area were discussed. Also discussed were potential options that might raise and connect a future Storrs Street North Extension to intersect with both Loudon Road and I-393 at full-directional traffic signals with objective to provide an alternative connection between the downtown area and I-393. Resulting lower traffic volumes along N. Main Street could be conducive to reducing the number of lanes from the current four to two which would facilitate extending the two-lane downtown section northerly to the Bouton/I-393 intersection for corridor consistency. Noted were design/cost challenges that might be inherent with the aforementioned traffic signal intersection options.

TPAC attendees expressed frustration that many months have passed since the August public meetings on the project; however TPAC has yet to receive an opportunity to discuss the latest concept alternatives with either the NHDOT project team or the City's advisory task force. Of concern is the state's potential development of a preferred alternative that might preclude aspects of a successful MRGT or potentially limit complete-streets neighborhood connectivity when the Storrs Street North corridor is redeveloped. NHDOT had noted that the next public information meeting on this project will be in the spring.

5. New Business

- a. Councilor Todd noted that City Council was having its priority setting session next Monday. Attendees discussed potential capital improvement projects and noted preferences for: the Merrimack River Greenway Trail; improved winter sidewalk snow maintenance; Langley Parkway Phase 3, and a project that would extend the two-lane Main Street section north to the Bouton/I-393 intersection.

6. Old Business - None

7. Consent Reports

a. Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes

The following subcommittee reports were accepted by unanimous consent: Bicycle/Pedestrian – December 4, 2017; Public Transportation – October 17, 2017; and Traffic Operations – December 19, 2017.

8. City Council Meeting Update

Councilor Todd reported that at its January 8, 2018 meeting, City Council accepted TPAC's response to the 224 N. State Street driveway referral.

9. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

a. Referral from Councilor Bouchard regarding constituent concerns on the revised alignment of the Old Loudon Road/Portsmouth Street intersection.

Rob Mack reported that part of TOC's follow-up on this referral included inquiries to General Services, Concord Fire Department and Concord School District regarding any issues they may have experienced when turning large trucks, large fire apparatus or buses from Old Loudon Road westbound onto Portsmouth Street. All replied that there were no issues or concerns. He also noted that the NHDOT is currently reviewing similarly-skewed Y intersections on their statewide highway network for purpose of developing a program to reconstruct them all into right-angle intersections for safety and speed control.

Conceptual intersection modifications were discussed. Attendees suggested that staff prepare, for further TPAC consideration, four concept alternatives including construction cost and a matrix of positive and negative aspects of each, for: retention of the current geometry; minor widening of the right-turn radius only; installation of a right-turn slip lane; and full relocation of the intersection further west.

- b. Referral from Councilor Bouchard regarding a constituent concern with increased traffic volume and speed along Christian Avenue pursuant to the repaving of Loudon Road.**
Rob Mack prepared a draft report, on behalf of TPAC, summarizing TPAC's consideration of this item at last month's meeting (see Item 9e, below, for TPAC action).
- c. Referral from Councilor Bouchard regarding a constituent concern with Loudon Road left turns into the new Dairy Queen site.**
Rob Mack prepared a draft report, on behalf of TPAC, summarizing TPAC's consideration of this item at last month's meeting (see Item 9e, below, for TPAC action).
- d. Referral from Councilor Matson regarding public concerns about delivery trucks parking in the median on Main Street too close to crosswalks.**
Rob Mack prepared a draft report, on behalf of TPAC, summarizing TPAC's consideration of this item at last month's meeting (see Item 9e, below, for TPAC action).
- e. TPAC Review and Acceptance of Draft Reports**
TPAC attendees collectively reviewed staff's draft reports on Items 9b, c and d, above, and accepted them as submitted, with a minor typographical correction on Item 9c, by unanimous consent, for submission to City Council.

10. Status Report on Subcommittees

- a. Traffic Operations Committee (TOC), Rob Mack**
Rob Mack reported that TOC met last week and discussed: the city-wide crash summary for 2017; a request for a stop sign on Willard Street; a request for more speed limit signs on Franklin Street; a review of new speed and volume counts on Rockingham Street; a request for Children at Play signs on Chapel Street; and the alignment of the Old Loudon Road/Portsmouth Street intersection.
- b. Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (TPAC-BP), Craig Tufts**
Craig Tufts reported that TPAC-BP met this month and continued to work on planning alternative locations for a possible bike-lane demonstration project with a focus on areas having existing bicycling challenges that might be mitigated. The subcommittee is interested in having the Traffic Engineer attend one of the meetings to answer questions on bicycle and pedestrian detection at the City's traffic signals. TPAC-BP would also like to participate in the review of the new Rundlett Middle School Plan.
- c. Public Transportation Committee (TPAC-PT), Sheila Zakre**
Sheila Zakre reported that Concord resident Karen Davies had attended a number of TPAC-PT meetings and was interested in joining the subcommittee. The Chair noted that acceptance of subcommittee membership was under the purview of the subcommittee chair. Following Sheila's endorsement, attendees concurred with the membership request.

Sheila Zakre also reported that TPAC-PT met on January 16, 2018 and discussed: CAT's new website which resolves the issues with the previously-hacked site; member observations of the newly-instituted bus stop snow maintenance efforts by General Services; and a concern by CAT regarding USPS delivery vehicles parking for extended periods in the Eagle Square bus stop.

11. Staff Updates

- a. Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP 543)**
Permitting for the project is complete. Construction documents are complete and a request for bids will be published soon.
- b. I-93 Bow-Concord (NHDOT)**
Discussed in Item 4a, above.
- c. Storrs Street Extension North (CIP 18)**

