

**City of Concord
Transportation Policy Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 28, 2016 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm
City Hall Council Chambers

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Dick Lemieux called the meeting to order. Those in attendance included:

Committee Members Present:

Dick Lemieux (Vehicle Traffic Safety Operations; Chair)
Brent Todd (Council Representative)
Ursula Maldonado (Pedestrian and Trails Community)
Craig Tufts, (Bicycling Community)
Sheila Zakre (At-Large)
Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer (City Manager's Designee)

Committee Members Not Present:

Rob Werner (Council Representative)
Jennifer Kretovic (Council Representative)
Jim Sudak (Public Transportation Representative)

Staff, Visitors and Guests Present:

None

2. Approval of June 23, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The June 23, 2016 minutes were approved with minor amendments (Motion-Todd; Second-Tufts; Unanimous). Amendments included updating member titles in the attendance list and additional wording in the discussion of Item 9b.

3. Presentations

None.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. New Business

None.

6. Old Business

a. TPAC Bike-Ped's Loudon Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Report

Craig Tufts presented an updated final draft report from TPAC-BP on the bicycle-pedestrian traffic count program. Updates included feedback from TPAC's discussion of same last month. TPAC members endorsed the report's findings and suggested some minor edits to the report's description of TPAC-BP's city-wide count program. TPAC members also considered a draft cover report from TPAC for City Council that would introduce TPAC-BP's report. Staff will finalize both documents as discussed and submit as a consent report for Council consideration at their August 8, 2016 meeting.

7. Consent Reports

a. Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes (Bicycle/Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Traffic Operations)

The following subcommittee reports were accepted by unanimous consent: Bicycle/Pedestrian – June 6, 2016; and Public Transportation – June 21, 2016.

8. City Council Meeting Update

Councilor Todd reported that at its July 11, 2016 meeting, City Council referred Item 9d, below, to TPAC. He also noted that the Parking Committee was beginning a series of meetings (including two public forums) to discuss recommendations made in the downtown parking study. The Parking Committee's refined recommendations will ultimately be considered by City Council.

9. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

a. Referral from Engineering to discuss speed limits city-wide (Engineering: 11/19/15)

Not discussed

b. Referral from Council regarding a request from John Cook, Concord resident, asking that consideration be given to the installation of a 4-way stop at the intersection of Union and Maple Streets (Council: 5/13/16)

Rob Mack reported that he spoke with Mr. Cook on June 24, 2016 and shared TOC's findings from last month. Mr. Cook noted that his original concern on speed came after watching a driver cut through from Centre Street to Maple Street at a fast rate. He also anticipated that the newly-paved street would increase speeds, although he noted he had not seen much of a speed increase since the repaving. He said he was satisfied that TOC looked into his request and didn't need any further action on his inquiry. He'd keep an eye open on the intersection and would let staff know if things change. TPAC attendees concurred with the staff and TOC follow-ups. Staff will prepare a consent report for Council consideration on August 8, 2016.

c. Referral from Council regarding a request from third grade students at Christa McAuliffe Elementary School for the installation of a 4-way stop at the intersection of Warren and Rumford Streets (Council: 5/13/16)

Further TOC discussion with the school district deferred until classes resume in September.

d. Referral from Council in response to a communication from Councilor Herschlag regarding a constituent request to change the flashing yellow arrow signal at the Fisherville/Borough/Manor intersection back to a red/green arrow signal.

Rob Mack described the request and noted that TOC began a discussion of it last week. The purpose of the change to flashing yellow arrow (FYA) was to reduce unnecessary intersection delays due to the need for the signal to cycle through all the phases before being able to serve a left-turn vehicle call. TOC members concurred that the FYA operation has so far seemed to operate very well and has been very effective at reducing delays. Observed queuing at the intersection, particularly in the left-turn lanes, has been dramatically reduced. Staff recalls a number of positive comments from the public since the change to FYA, but this is the first negative comment. It was also noted that Council accepted a September 30, 2014 TOC/TPAC report recommending the FYA operation here in part to alleviate signal delays which may have been inducing Fisherville Road southbound traffic to use Snow Street as a cut-through

bypass of the red arrow left turn signal at Manor Road; this was in response to a 2014 referral from Council regarding a complaint from Snow Street residents.

Staff planned to discuss the request in more detail with Councilor Herschlag. Staff also planned to continue monitoring traffic operations at the intersection. Councilor Todd suggested that staff also follow up with the Snow Street residents that were the subject of the previously-referenced September 30, 2014 TOC/TPAC recommendation to Council.

10. Status Report on Subcommittees

a. Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee, Craig Tufts

Craig Tufts reported that the subcommittee continued work on the Pedestrian Master Plan and the report on Loudon Road bicycle/pedestrian counts (Item 6a, above). The bike rack removal from the parking garage was also discussed. A request to install directional-signs in Penacook for the Northern Rail Trail was discussed and is being considered by TOC. Also discussed were concerns that sharrow markings on the North-South Bike Route were not being repainted.

b. Public Transit Committee, Sheila Zakre

Sheila Zakre reported that TPAC-PT met on July 19 and further considered the issue of improving snow maintenance at bus stops. Member Dean Williams of CNHRPC further refined the map showing city-wide bus stop locations together with bus stop patronage numbers and the applicable sidewalk snow-plowing priority by the City. A representative from General Services would be invited to the August meeting to discuss winter snow-maintenance practice. Sheila Zakre has been seeking a potential representative from the para-transit user community that might be interested in joining the subcommittee. Also discussed was CAP-BMCI's new no-show/ride cancellation policy.

c. Traffic Operations Committee, Rob Mack

Rob Mack reported that TOC met on July 19, 2016 and discussed Item 9d as well as inquiries to install directional signage within the public way for the Northern Rail Trail and the Shaker Road School.

11. Staff Updates

a. Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project - TIGER 2012 (CIP460)

Rob Mack reported that base paving of the southbound side of S. Main Street begins tomorrow.

b. Sewalls Falls Bridge Replacement Project (CIP 22)

Rob Mack reported that the steel work is complete and work on the bridge deck would begin next week. The bridge is expected to be open to traffic on November 1, 2016.

c. Loudon Road Corridor Improvements (CIP 19)

Rob Mack reported that staff planned to report back to City Council on August 8 regarding Council's request to look at options that retained the 4-lane corridor. A September public information meeting was an option that Council might consider.

d. Mountain/Shawmut/East Side/Exit 16 Roundabout (CIP 24)

Rob Mack reported that final design was underway.

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

Rob Mack reported that design plans are completed and under review by the Land and Water Conservation Trust.

f. **I-93 Bow-Concord (NHDOT)**

Rob Mack reported that the NHDOT study was progressing with hopes of an initial meeting with the city's project review committee in the near future.

g. **Storrs Street Extension North (CIP18)**

Rob Mack reported that staff was finalizing the scope of work and contract with the study consultant. It was expected that the study would begin in August.

12. Other Discussion Items

a. **Winter maintenance of I-393 bridge sidewalk.**

Rob Mack reported that the City, NHDOT and Friendly Kitchen had met to begin discussion of the issue. In addition, the City's upcoming study of the Storrs Street Extension North will be considering a new complete street connection between Loudon Road and S. Commercial Street; this would provide an alternate walking access between downtown and the Horseshoe Pond area versus use of the I-393 sidewalk.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at about 8:45 PM.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: August 25, 2016
September 22, 2016
October 27, 2016