

City of Concord
Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 25, 2013 - 6:00pm to 8:30pm
City Council Chambers

1. Call to Order/Introductions

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

Committee Members Present:

Jennifer Kretovic (City Council)
Keith Nyhan, City Council
Dick Lemieux (Downtown - Chair)
Brent Todd (Penacook)
Ursula Maldonado (At-Large)
Craig Tufts, (Bike Community)
Alex Vogt (Pedestrian Community)
Jim Sudak (Concord Area Transit) (Public Transit)
Ed Roberge, City Engineer - Staff Representative

Committee Members Not Present:

Rob Werner, City Council
Tom Irwin (North/West Concord)

Staff, Visitors and Guests Present:

Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer – Staff Representative
Mark Scyocurka, South End Resident
Shane Stewart, South End Resident
Kim Stewart, South End Resident

2. Approval of March 28, 2013 meeting minutes

Brent Todd made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of the March 28th meeting. Ursula Maldonado seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Presentations

Given the planned public meeting, there were no presentations at this meeting.

4. Public Comment

- a. **Neighborhood Meeting to consider removal and installation of STOP signs at Heather Lane intersections, including: installation of a STOP sign on the New Meadow Road eastbound approach to Heather Lane; installation of a STOP sign on the Gabby Lane eastbound approach to Heather Lane; and removal of the STOP signs on the Heather Lane approaches to Gabby Lane. (see item 6.b. below)**

With members from the public in attendance, Dick Lemieux requested that

everyone introduce themselves. In addition to the committee members, Shane Stewart, Kim Stewart, and Mark Scyocurka, all residents of the south end neighborhood, were in attendance.

Rob Mack gave a brief introduction of the City Council referral and reported on recent communications with residents. The request by most residents was to remove stop signs within the neighborhood, specifically at Gabby Lane and Heather Lane. Rob Mack reported that Engineering completed a study and reviewed the City's stop sign policy and applicable state law and indicated that the intersection functions well and that stop signs at this location are optional according to the Manual of Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Rob Mack noted that the matter has been reviewed by the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) which concurred that the two stop signs on the Heather Lane approach to Gabby Lane were optional and could be removed from the site. A similar review found that the potential installation of new stop signs on either the Gabby Lane approach to Heather Lane or the New Meadow Road approach to Heather Lane were not necessary and could be considered optional. Rob Mack also noted that TPAC reviewed this matter prior to setting this public meeting and also concurred with the Engineering findings.

Mr. Stewart asked how and why this matter was brought forward. Councilor Nyhan reported that he had received a call from a constituent requesting that additional stop signs be placed in the neighborhood, particularly at the New Meadow/Heather Lane intersection, which then prompted a request to remove other existing stop signs. Mr. and Ms. Stewart both indicated a desire to remove the two existing stop signs at the Meadow/Gabby intersection and to not install any new stop signs in the neighborhood.

Mr. Scyocurka read a letter he had prepared voicing opinion that the new stop signs requested, particularly at the New Meadow/Heather intersection, are unwarranted. He went further to say that the others in the neighborhood should be removed.

Following a brief discussion indicating their opinions to remove stop signs instead of adding, Rob Mack reported that he had received additional resident communication from Chris Mamos who indicated a strong desire to install a new stop sign on the New Meadow Road approach to Heather Lane. A communication was also received from resident Raymond Smith who was comfortable with either removing or adding stop signs.

In that, noting consistency with the stop sign policy, Rob Mack recommended that TPAC forward a request to City Council indicating support for the removal of stop signs at the intersection of Gabby Lane and Heather Lane, no installation of a new sign at Heather Lane and New Meadow Road, and leave the stop sign at Gabby Lane and South Street in place. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Alex Vogt in support of the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Brent Todd. Following a brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

The residents in attendance expressed their appreciation of the process and the opportunity to be heard. Ed Roberge reported that an Ordinance with the stop sign changes would be presented to City Council for their consideration.

5. Consent Reports

a. Approval of Subcommittee Minutes (Pedestrian, Bicycle, Public Transit, and Traffic Operations)

The meeting minutes of the Pedestrian (March 1, 2013), Bicycle (March 4, 2013), and Traffic Operations (March 19, 2013) were unanimously approved through consent of the committee.

6. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

a. Referral from City Council to consider establishing a No Parking, Standing, Stopping zone along Conant Drive between South Street and Rundlett Street to mitigate adverse effects of parking for traffic related to school drop-offs/pick-ups at the Abbott-Downing Elementary School. (Council: 10/9/2012, 12/20/2012, 1/24/2013, 2/28/2013, 3/28/2013, 4/25/2013).

Rob Mack reported that the Parking Committee endorsed an alternative to expand the parking restrictions within the neighborhood school area along South Street, Conant Street, and Bow Street. This was the result of a neighborhood meeting where residents spoke of concerns. The recommendation by the Parking Committee will be presented to City Council in May.

Following brief discussion, TPAC supports the parking restrictions and will provide a letter of support to the Parking Committee.

b. Referral from City Council to consider removal and installation of STOP signs at Heather Lane intersections, including: installation of a STOP sign on the New Meadow Road eastbound approach to Heather Lane; installation of a STOP sign on the Gabby Lane eastbound approach to Heather Lane; and removal of the STOP sign on the Heather Lane northbound approach to Gabby Lane. (Council: 10/9/2012, 12/20/2012, 1/24/2013, 2/28/2013, 3/28/2013, 4/25/2013). See public comment section above.

7. Status report on subcommittees

a. Pedestrian Committee, Alex Vogt

Alex Vogt reported that the Pedestrian Committee met on April 18th and discussed several items including the upcoming pedestrian counting program and the Main Street design.

Pedestrian and bicycle counting is planned for May 7th at various locations throughout the City. Volunteers from AARP as well as staff and committee members will be gathering the data. The count data will be prepared in a format for use in the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project.

Alex Vogt also indicated that there would be no meeting in May. The next subcommittee meeting is planned for June 20th.

b. Bike Committee, Craig Tufts

Craig Tufts reported that the Bike Committee met in April and continues to look for new volunteers to participate in the subcommittee. The committee reviewed the 2013 State paving schedule and noted that only a short section of Mountain Road paving is planned within Concord.

The committee also discussed Main Street bike parking as well as the upcoming bicycle counting program coordinated with the Pedestrian Committee. Councilor Nyhan noted that he had heard recent discussion regarding the potential for a mountain biking trail system at White Park and asked if the committee was aware of those discussions. This matter will be reviewed further.

c. Public Transit Committee, Jennifer Kretovic

Councilor Kretovic reported that the Public Transit Committee has not yet met in April but noted that the next meeting was scheduled for April 30th. Councilor Kretovic reported that there had been several reported bus accidents in April as well as the report of some bad activities on buses. Concord Area Transit (CAT) is aware of the issues and will discuss them in detail at the upcoming meeting.

d. Traffic Operations Committee, Rob Mack

Rob Mack reported that the Traffic Operations Committee met on April 16th and reviewed recent accident reports as well as continued discussions on the Abbot-Downing and Millbrook School parking issues.

With respect to the school parking issues, TOC supported previous TPAC recommendations to restrict parking further in the neighborhood as supported by recent public meetings. Formal Ordinance changes will be presented to City Council for action in May/June.

The TOC also discussed signage at the Centre/Liberty/Auburn Street roundabout. Rob Mack noted that while a number of the "required" signs remain, staff has been removing several "optional" signs over the past few weeks. There is now a noticeable difference in the appearance of signs at the roundabout.

8. Staff Updates

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

Ed Roberge provided an update of the Main Street project. A final design report has been prepared and will be presented to City Council at their May 13th meeting. Staff anticipates that Council may request an additional public review and comment period to be sure all comments can be heard and addressed prior to final approval.

Dick Lemieux asked if TPAC should provide a final recommendation. Ed Roberge suggested that TPAC should provide public comments when asked by Council. Following a discussion, TPAC agreed to have staff include comments by TPAC in the final report and that Dick Lemieux would be the spokesperson for TPAC before City Council.

9. Old Business

a. Review of Comprehensive Transportation Policy

Given the lack of time, this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

b. Review of Accomplishments

Given the lack of time, this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

10. New business

There was no new business presented at this meeting.

11. Adjourn

There being no other items to discuss, Ursula Maldonado made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Nyhan. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned.