

**City of Concord
Transportation Policy Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 27, 2014 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm
City Council Chambers

1. Call to Order/Introductions

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

Committee Members Present:

Dick Lemieux (At-Large - Chair)
Byron Champlin (Council Representative)
Craig Tufts, (Bicycling Community)
Ursula Maldonado (At-Large)
Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer (City Manager's Designee)

Committee Members Not Present:

Rob Werner (Council Representative)
Brent Todd (Council Representative)
Tom Irwin (At-Large)
Jim Sudak (Public Transportation Representative)
Alex Vogt (Pedestrian and Trails Community)

Staff, Visitors and Guests Present:

Ed Roberge, City Engineer (Staff Representative)

TPAC's last regular meeting was January 23, 2014. The Chair noted that Alex Vogt was unable to continue his TPAC appointment which expires this month due to his semi-annual relocation out of state. He noted an interest to continue participation in the pedestrian subcommittee as his schedule allows. Due to lack of quorum, the Chair suspended the rules to allow votes by those voting members present (Motion-Champlin; Second-Maldonado; Unanimous).

2. Approval of January 23, 2014 meeting minutes

The January 23, 2014 minutes as submitted were approved (Motion-Champlin; Second-Tufts; Unanimous).

3. Presentations

a. None.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. New Business

a. None.

6. Consent Reports

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

The following subcommittee minutes were reviewed and accepted by unanimous consent: Joint Bicycle/Pedestrian - January 6, 2014 and February 3, 2014; Public Transportation - January 7, 2014; and Traffic Operations - January 21, 2014 and February 18, 2014.

b. Review of CAT Mid-Year Progress Report (July-December 2013)

The CAT Mid-Year Progress Report (July-December 2013) was approved as submitted (Motion-Maldonado; Second-Champlin; Unanimous).

7. City Council meeting update

At its February 10, 2014 meeting, City Council: approved the Loudon Road lane-conversion project; accepted the TPAC Accomplishments report; and accepted the TOC report on a stop sign request on Governor's Way. At its March 10, 2014 meeting, City Council accepted TOC's report on the Regional/Chenell intersection with recommendation to retain the current two-way stop sign control until intersection improvements programmed under CIP 541 are implemented.

8. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

a. None.

9. Status report on subcommittees

a. Pedestrian Committee, Ursula Maldonado

Ursula Maldonado noted that TPAC-Ped met jointly with TPAC-Bike in March. Walking access to the Friendly Kitchen was discussed in light of poor winter sidewalk maintenance along I-393/S. Commercial Street, and private fencing being erected along the rail corridor north of Storrs St. Members discussed the city's pending purchase of the Tunis property north of Storrs Street along the railroad tracks and near the former Agway property. This could present options for future public walking access. Snow cleanup on sidewalks was also discussed, including the potential for a revised state law that might require homeowners to shovel sidewalks along their frontage. Development of a Pedestrian Master Plan was also discussed including how it might be structured.

b. Bike Committee, Craig Tufts

Craig Tufts reported that TPAC-Bike met jointly with TPAC-Ped in March and began working on the renewal application for the city's Bicycle Friendly Community recognition which is due in September. New priorities and initiatives related to bicycling in the city need to be summarized. TPAC members discussed the potential need for public outreach to expand on a nationally-growing mindset that is less focused on the 'need to drive' versus taking the opportunity to walk or bike.

c. Public Transit Committee, Dick Lemieux

Dick Lemieux noted that the TPAC-PT subcommittee discussed a proposal from the Penacook Village Association to include a CAT service stop at the Penacook Community Center on Dolphin Street. Contributing to the discussion were residents of Briar Pipes who would welcome such a change as it would increase their access to

activities available at the community center. CAT and CNHRPC staff are testing some variations in the Penacook Route that might accomplish this.

d. Traffic Operations Committee, Rob Mack

Rob Mack reported that TOC met on March 18 and discussed updating posted speed limits on Old Loudon Road. The road is currently posted 35 mph, but the area is within the Urban Compact and should be 30 mph by statute. TOC is recommending correcting the speeds here to 30 mph, subject to Council acceptance of the recommendation. TOC also discussed a commuter's request to place a Do Not Block Intersection sign on Bouton Street southbound at the Church Street intersection. The request was not recommended.

10. Staff Updates

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

Ed Roberge noted that the project team updated City Council on the project in February. To reduce uncertainty and estimated construction cost, a new request for qualification for a Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) is being advertised. A more flexible scope of work would be negotiated that might include: potential for larger work areas, some daytime work, and non-steam options for a snow melt system. The goal is to create a city/contractor partnership to better manage the construction project with lower uncertainties and more realistic costs. CMGC proposals are due on April 11, 2014.

b. US Route 3 North Improvements (CIP 35)

Ed Roberge reported that bids for this year's road construction and streetscape improvements came in on-estimate. Merrill Construction was the lowest responsible bidder and is anticipated to begin work around April 21.

c. Sewalls Falls Bridge Replacement (CIP 22)

Ed Roberge reported that City Council approved the steel/concrete option for span construction, perhaps with some architectural features, vertical elements and sidewalk overlooks. Planning is discussing options to potentially reuse portion of the old truss, perhaps integrating it into a picnic area.

d. Loudon Road Corridor Improvements (CIP 19)

Rob Mack reported that pursuant to City Council approval of the project on February 10, 2014, staff has begun coordination with NHDOT to start administration of the project. Staff has also begun discussions with CAT regarding bus stop locations along the corridor. Construction is anticipated in spring 2015.

e. I-93 Bow-Concord Study (NHDOT)

Ed Roberge noted that McFarland Johnson, Inc. has begun work on updating the corridor study. A new regional transportation model is currently under development for this study and will be available afterwards for CNHRPC planning efforts. The chair asked that this project be added as a regular discussion item on coming TPAC agendas.

11. Old Business

a. Review/update Comprehensive Transportation Policy.

Members discussed Smart Growth America's review and ranking of Concord's Comprehensive Transportation Policy in their 2013 annual report. Dick Lemieux distributed their 'scorecard' for Concord which facilitated a discussion of how the city's policy statement compared with that of other municipalities. It appears that choice of wording was significant in the rating system. For example, Concord's overarching reference to 'all users' was ranked lower than communities that actually 'spelled out' the users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, etc. Members felt that well-ranked municipalities on national review sites such as this benefit in terms of attracting folks to relocate to one community over another. With Concord having so many positive attributes of a complete street community, members concurred that further review of the city's policy statement and potential wording updates would be beneficial. Staff would distribute the following materials to members to facilitate continued discussion at the next meeting: Smart Growth America's 2013 report, including ranking criteria and summary of community policy ratings; a copy of our current policy statement; and a copy of some initial rewording suggestions as drafted by the Chair.

b. TPAC membership and recruitment

Attendees discussed the need to attract new members, both on the committee and subcommittee level.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM (Motion-Champlin; Second-Maldonado; Unanimous).