

**City of Concord
Transportation Policy Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 26, 2014 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm
City Council Chambers

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Dick Lemieux, Chair, called the meeting to order and introduced Sheila Zakre, newly appointed to TPAC by City Council on June 9, 2014 as an At-Large member. Those in attendance included:

Committee Members Present:

Dick Lemieux (At-Large - Chair)
Byron Champlin (Council Representative)
Craig Tufts, (Bicycling Community)
Brent Todd (Council Representative)
Ursula Maldonado (At-Large)
Jim Sudak (Public Transportation Representative)
Sheila Zakre (At-Large)
Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer (City Manager's Designee)

Committee Members Not Present:

Rob Werner (Council Representative)
Tom Irwin (At-Large)

Staff, Visitors and Guests Present:

Ed Roberge, City Engineer (Staff Representative)

2. Approval of April 24, 2014 meeting minutes

The April 24, 2014 minutes as submitted were approved (Motion-Champlin; Second-Todd; Unanimous).

3. Presentations

There were no presentations.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. New Business

a. Report from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittees with recommendations for improved access to the Friendly Kitchen.

Craig Tufts presented a draft report prepared by both subcommittees with recommendations to improve walking access to the Friendly Kitchen from the downtown area. At issue is maintenance of reasonable and safe walking routes, particularly in the winter. The most-used and most-direct walking route from downtown is along the railroad tracks and properties north of Storrs Street. This

route trespasses on private properties and is not maintained. The nearest sidewalk route is via the I-393 Connector sidewalk and Commercial Street, however, this sidewalk is under the jurisdiction of the NHDOT and not plowed in winter. The nearest maintained route is the connection between Horseshoe Pond Place and Commercial Street, however it is unlikely that this is a realistically-used route for pedestrians between downtown and the Friendly Kitchen area. The subcommittee recommendation is to consider a formalized non-vehicle path along the Tunis property (being considered for acquisition by city) and city-owned property (former Agway property). This path would require approval of at-grade rail crossings across both the NHDOT tracks and the Pan Am tracks.

TPAC members discussed the report and recommendations. It was noted that the Friendly Kitchen stated during its Planning Board approval hearing that it would be responsible to plow the I-393 sidewalk. This has not been observed yet, although there was concern noted about potentially unqualified persons plowing this heavily-trafficked location. It was also noted that the Tunis property was not yet available, but might be purchased by early fall. Staff (Administration) was in discussion with Pan Am representatives and NHDOT regarding potential railroad track relocation that might occur if the Tunis property becomes available to the city.

TPAC members felt that the subcommittee recommendations would provide significant public benefit and warranted further consideration, but concurred that further efforts should be coordinated with Administration's efforts to plan for and acquire the needed property and crossing easements. Members suggested that such a connection would have much value to the overall walking/cycling community as it would allow an enhanced connection for non-motorized traffic between the downtown and commercial street areas. TPAC suggested that staff meet with Friendly Kitchen representatives to get feedback on a potential pathway connection. Staff will bring TPAC's discussion on this topic to Administration staff coordinating the Tunis property review.

6. Old Business

a. Review/update Comprehensive Transportation Policy.

The Chair asked if any members would be interested in drafting up some potential wording updates to facilitate further TPAC discussion. Byron Champlin and Ed Roberge offered to collaborate on a draft.

7. 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: Public Transportation - April 15, 2014; Public Transportation - May 13, 2014; and Traffic Operations - May 20, 2014.

8. City Council meeting update

At its June 9, 2014 meeting, City Council: referred a request to TOC to consider sidewalk improvements along Borough Road and safety improvements at the Washington/Borough/River intersection. Council also set public hearing for July 14, 2014

to consider parking changes recommended by the Parking Committee along S. Curtisville Road, Christian Avenue and S. Fruit Street.

9. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

a. Referral from Councilor Herschlag regarding excessive traffic speeds in the West Village neighborhood in Penacook. (Council: 4/14/2014, TPAC 4/24/2014)

Rob Mack reported that staff had shared TOC findings with Councilor Herschlag regarding actual speeds and traffic cut through, as well as applicable aspects of the city's traffic management policy, particularly with regard to a request for neighborhood traffic calming. Councilor Herschlag noted that he would meet with constituents to discuss the new information and would reply back to staff on potential next steps.

b. Referral to TOC from Councilor Herschlag requesting that additional traffic calming methods or stop signs be used at the Washington/borough/River intersection, and that consideration be given to filling sidewalk gaps and enhancing pedestrian travel along Borough Road between Alice Drive and River Road. (Council: 6/09/2014, TOC 6/17/2014)

Rob Mack reported that Engineering and General Services staff are collaborating on a potential, low-cost intersection realignment where Borough Road would be aligned to intersect Washington/River Road at a single right-angle location. Engineering is also researching the history of potential sidewalk improvements along Borough Road previously considered and discussed with the neighborhood in roughly 2006-7.

10. Status report on subcommittees

a. Pedestrian Committee, Ursula Maldonado

Ursula Maldonado reported that TPAC-Ped met jointly with TPAC-Bike in June and worked on the draft Friendly Kitchen access report (Item 5a).

b. Bike Committee, Craig Tufts

Craig Tufts added that at the June meeting, TPAC-Bike also discussed the ongoing Loudon Road repaving project (D'Amante to NH 106) and staff's efforts to better accommodate bicycle travel along the corridor by implementing minor revisions to the former pavement-line locations. Concerns were also noted regarding the reinstatement of on-street parking along the southerly end of Storrs Street; previously available shoulders for bicycle travel have been filled with parkers, increasing dooring risks.

c. Public Transit Committee, Tom Irwin

Brent Todd reported that although the TPAC-PT subcommittee did not formally meet, Tom Irwin was working on developing additional 'performance measures' by which the effectiveness of CAT service can be better measured.

d. Traffic Operations Committee, Rob Mack

Rob Mack reported that the Traffic Operations Committee met last week and discussed both Council referrals (Items 9a and 9b). There was also discussion of various speeding and signing concerns from residents at various locations.

11. Staff Updates

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

Ed Roberge reported that a presentation of the project to City Council was scheduled for June 30 and would include the latest negotiated construction costs and construction options. Of note is that the snow-melt system appears to be an unrealistic option, and that the project limits may be reduced (for cost reasons) to include only Centre Street to Concord Street.

b. **US Route 3 North Improvements (CIP 35)**

Ed Roberge reported that construction in Penacook Village is progressing in a timely manner. Construction of the roundabout at the Village/Washington intersection would begin in July.

c. **Sewalls Falls Bridge Replacement (CIP 22)**

Ed Roberge reported that construction work on the new bridge is anticipated to begin this fall.

d. **Loudon Road Corridor Improvements (CIP 19)**

Ed Roberge reported that contracts for consultant design services for the project were under review with the NHDOT. It is expected that design will continue through 2014. Construction is anticipated in spring 2015.

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

Not discussed.

12. Other Discussion Items

a. Brent Todd noted that there is a proposal in City Council to add more funds to the local street repaving program. A list of streets needing work has been made, but there is no method for prioritization. Ed noted that prioritization can be discussed during Council's discussion of out-year projects in the fall. Dick Lemieux suggested that TPAC could provide feedback on potential prioritization. Byron Champlin further suggested that TPAC could consider hosting a public meeting to get input from the public and funnel it back to Council.

b. Dick Lemieux and Brent Todd presented an old (ca. 1890) photo of Main Street featuring a long line of bicyclists posed in front of the brick building frontages. A request will be made to City Council in July to allow Main Street to remain closed after Market Days to until 9AM on Sunday July 20, 2014. Proposed is the assemblage of close to 100 bicyclists to recreate a modern version of the image which would then be made available for the next city 'time capsule'. The event would be staged between 7-9AM.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:00 PM by unanimous consent.