

**City of Concord
Transportation Policy Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 27, 2015 - 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)
Brent Todd (Council Representative)
Ursula Maldonado (At-Large)
Craig Tufts, (Bicycling Community)
Tom Irwin (At-Large)
Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer (City Manager's Designee)

Committee Members Not Present:

Rob Werner (Council Representative)
Byron Champlin (Council Representative)
Sheila Zakre (At-Large)
Jim Sudak (Public Transportation Representative)

Staff, Visitors and Guests Present:

Ed Roberge (City Engineer)

2. Approval of July 23, 2015 meeting minutes

The July 23, 2015 meeting minutes were approved as submitted (Motion-Todd; Second-Maldonado; Unanimous).

3. Presentations

There were no presentations.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. New business

- a. None.

6. Old Business

- a. **TPAC Report and Resolution requesting Council to authorize the City Manager to submit an application to the League of American Bicyclists for renewal of the Bicycle Friendly Community Status.**

Craig Tufts reported that Concord's application was submitted to LAB on August 11. A representative of LAB will visit Concord on September 28 and a bicycle tour will be organized to overview the city's bicycle infrastructure. The LAB visit was also scheduled in conjunction with the September 30 NH Bike/Walk Conference in Concord.

Regarding required local review of the application, Craig is developing a list of individuals from the Concord area who would be invited to fill out a survey for LAB.

7. Consent Reports

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

The following subcommittee reports were accepted by unanimous consent: Bicycle/Pedestrian – June 1, 2015; and Traffic Operations – July 21, 2015.

8. City Council Meeting Update

At its July 13, 2015 meeting, City Council approved TPAC's report and resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the League of American Bicyclists for renewal of the Bicycle Friendly Community Status.

9. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

a. Referral by the Chair to discuss the status of the sections of N. and S. Main Street immediately north and south of the Downtown Complete Streets Project

TPAC continued its discussion from last month regarding development of potential low-cost pavement marking improvement projects that would provide an appropriate transition between the Main Street Complete Street project and the sections of Main Street to the north and south. These projects would essentially provide the pavement marking and lane transitions developed in the original Main Street design, but were later removed from the current project due to funding limitations (Storrs Street to Concord Street; and Loudon Road to Storrs Street). TPAC felt strongly that such transitions will become important so as to avoid a potentially odd transition from the new two-lane section back to short remnants of the old four-lane section.

Staff will develop pavement marking plans for each transition area. The northern transition (Loudon to Storrs) will also require relocation of the raised center median in order to accommodate appropriate lane widths for both vehicles and bicycles. The southern section may be done as part of the Main Street project if project funds are still available next year; if not it would have to be a separately funded project in the CIP. TPAC members indicated support in developing a future recommendation to City Council regarding these two transition projects.

Discussion continued regarding last month's consideration of installing a temporary test area of back-in angle parking in conjunction with the on-going Main street reconstruction project. Ed Roberge noted he had received another resident email indicating support for back-in angle parking on Main Street. He had also discussed TPAC's consideration of a potential test alternative to Administration with suggestion that TPAC could offer its recommendation to City Council. In terms of coordinating this test with the ongoing Main Street project, a reasonable alternative would be to use temporary paint markings to designate back-in angle parking (rather than the front-in angle as per the approved design) along the front of the state house plaza (13 spaces) and along the south side of Capital Street (six spaces). Markings would be installed in late fall after the paving of the west side of N. Main Street is complete. Temporary markings would indicate the back-in angle spaces over the winter and staff would monitor operation and public feedback and report back to City Council in the spring. By

then the temporary markings would be substantially faded, and permanent markings (either front-in or back-in as decided by Council) would be installed.

TPAC members concurred that this alternative was both well located and appropriate for purpose of a test. TPAC approved a motion to test back-in angle parking in front of the state house plaza and on Capital Street over this winter (Motion-Tufts; Second-Maldonado; Unanimous). Staff was requested to draft up a report with TPAC's recommendation to City Council. The Chair requested that a special TPAC meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, September 1 to discuss and finalize this report for submission to Council for consideration at the September 14 meeting.

b. Referral from City Council regarding a resident concern on wheelchair accessibility on Union Street (City Council: 8/10/15).

At issue is a concern from Peter Pilch of 24 Union Street regarding wheelchair accessibility along Union Street. Requested are: consideration of sidewalk condition near the Union/Maple intersection that complicates wheelchair travel; installation of signs on Union Street indicating wheelchair users; and potential for increased public transit opportunities for wheelchair users. Rob Mack attempted to reach out to Mr. Pilch on several occasions to better identify his concerns, but he has not yet responded back.

This referral was discussed by TOC at their August 18, 2015 meeting. Regarding sidewalk accessibility concerns near the Union/Maple intersection, Engineering staff would coordinate with General Services to review sidewalk condition and potential curb barrier at the corner sidewalk ramp. Rob Mack noted that warning signs indicating 'handicapped person' (or for that matter 'blind person', or 'deaf child') are neither effective nor approved for use per Federal standards. They have not been found to provide drivers with relevant information and may foster a false sense of security in pedestrians.

Rob Mack reported that Mr. Pilch's communication to City Council also requested information on potential funding opportunities for expanded wheelchair transit service for hours beyond those covered by CAT's regular service schedule. Dean Williams of CNHRPC provided a communication to TPAC-PT suggesting that the Mid-State Regional Coordinating Council and the NHDOT might be able assist interested persons in potential funding or reimbursement for this type of service. The Chair tabled further consideration of this item until next month, pending additional input from Mr. Pilch.

10. Status report on subcommittees

a. Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee, Craig Tufts

Craig Tufts reported that the second public forum on the pedestrian master plan was held on August 25, 2015. Craig noted that good input was received despite relatively low public attendance. The next public forum will be scheduled on the Heights this fall. The committee also discussed potential pedestrian signal head upgrades programmed in the CIP for FY2017 for the Pleasant/State intersection and concurred that this would enhance pedestrian crossing safety. The chair suggested that TPAC consider formalizing its support of these intersection improvements when the FY2017 CIP is developed early next year.

b. Public Transit Committee, Tom Irwin

Tom Irwin reported that the committee did not meet this month.

c. **Traffic Operations Committee, Rob Mack**

Rob Mack reported that TOC met last week and considered: Council's referral to TPAC of the Union Street accessibility concern (Item 9b above); a referral from Council regarding a nearby employee's concern that traffic doesn't stop at the stop signs at the Pembroke/Canterbury intersection; and a request from a Broadway resident to install multi-way stop signs at the Broadway/Allison intersection.

11. Staff Updates

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

Construction of the west side of N. Main Street is underway.

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

Construction of the sixth and final phase of the project (Borough Road to Lilac Street) is underway and should be completed by next spring.

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

Site preparation for bridge construction is underway.

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

Final design and right-of-work is underway with advertising for construction anticipated in January 2015.

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

Rob Mack reported that McFarland-Johnson, NHDOT's project consultant, provided an update at last month's meeting of CNHRPC's Transportation Advisory Committee. NHDOT's overall preferred alternative generally consists of widening I-93 to a six-lane section along the existing corridor alignment between I-89 and I-393; additional lanes might be added at select interchange location if needed to handle merging/diverging traffic. Current and recently completed bridge reconstructions at I-89 and Exit 12 have been designed to accommodate the future mainline widening. Alternatives yet to be evaluated are: I-93/I-89/Bow Exit 1 interchange; I-93 northbound off-ramp capacity issues at Exit 13; I-93/I-393 access to the Storrs Street/Commercial Street area; and corridor cross-section at the 'pinch point' on I-93 just south of Exit 14 (constraints include the Merrimack River to the east, and the railroad/utility/shopping plaza to the west. The Chair suggested that a group of public/private stakeholders be developed regarding the 'pinch point' area to provide feedback to NHDOT regarding options to optimize multi-modal opportunities along this critical segment of the corridor.

12. Other Discussion Items

There were no discussion items.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at about 8:35 PM.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: September 1, 2015
 September 24, 2015
 October 22, 2015
 November 19, 2015