

**City of Concord
Transportation Policy Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 17, 2011 - 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:

Dick Lemieux (Downtown - Chair)
Councilor Keith Nyhan (City Council)
Jennifer Kretovic (Public Transit)
Ursula Maldonado (Resident)
Jim Sudak (Concord Area Transit) (CAT)
Frank Drouse (East Concord)
Peter Rhodes (Bicycling Community)
Ed Roberge, City Engineer - Staff Representative

Committee Members Not Present:

Councilor Werner (City Council)
Alex Vogt (Pedestrian Community)
Domenic Ciavarro (Large Employer)
Tom Irwin (North/West Concord)
Brent Todd (Penacook)

Staff, Visitors and Guests Present:

Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer – Staff Representative
Steve Henninger, Asst. City Planner – Staff Representative
Craig Tufts, Central NH Regional Planning Commission
Ginny Schneider, Director of Transportation, CAPBMI
Don Lyford, NHDOT
Bob Landry, NHDOT
Tony Cane, NHDOT
Peter Salo, NHDOT
Gene McCarthy, McFarland-Johnson
Mike Long, McFarland-Johnson

2. Approval of October 27, 2011 meeting minutes

Following a brief review of the draft October meeting minutes, Jim Sudak requested that several minor items be revised within the minutes. The minor changes requested were specific to Item 3. Presentations, Paragraph b., where reference was made to the volunteer driver program. Through discussion, TPAC agreed that the clarifications were appropriate.

There being no other discussions or comments on the minutes, Jennifer Kretovic made a motion to accept the October 27, 2011 minutes with the changes noted above. The motion was seconded by Keith Nyhan. The minutes of the October 27, 2011 meeting were

unanimously approved as revised.

3. Presentations

a. I-93, Exit 12 Bridge Replacement Project, NHDOT/McFarland-Johnson

The project team including members from the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and McFarland-Johnson (MJ) presented the I-93, Exit 12 Bridge Replacement Project. Don Lyford, Project manager with NHDOT introduced the project team and outlined the project. The project is to replace the existing red-listed bridge conveying NH Route 3A (South Main Street) over I-93.

Gene McCarthy, Project Manager with MJ detailed the project design efforts to date and outlined the two bridge options the project team is considering. The bridge options were the result of detailed review of traffic demands along I-93 as well as future growth along NH Route 3A. Alternative A maintains the existing skewed bridge geometry over I-93 and maintains existing exit ramp locations and lane uses. Alternative B features a new bridge constructed perpendicular to the I-93 corridor and reconfigures the exit ramps by terminating them into roundabouts on either side of the interstate highway.

Gene McCarthy distributed an alternative evaluation and decision matrix outlining the pros and cons of each alternative. The bridge costs associated with Alt. A is much higher than the bridge costs for Alt. B due to the length and skew angle of the existing bridge. Alt. A would replace the bridge in its current location through phased construction. A center pier along the I-93 corridor would be required, Alt. B proposes to construct a shorter bridge at a right angle to I-93 that would not require a center pier and could be constructed offline with limited impact to existing traffic along NH Route 3A. Both options are estimated to cost about \$4.0M.

Ed Roberge asked if both options provide for expansion of I-93 (6-lane option) as outlined in the I-93 Bow/Concord Corridor Study. Gene McCarthy indicated that both alternatives support the future development plans of I-93 including the construction an additional auxiliary lane between Exit 12 and Exit 13 as previously discussed. Ed Roberge also noted that improvements to the South Main Street/Broadway intersection have been on the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for some time but was dependent upon redevelopment in the area. He requested that the project team coordinate closely with the City on incorporating the bridge reconstruction/ramp intersection improvements with the South Main/Broadway improvements.

Steve Henninger noted that the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) recently saw this same presentation and preferred Alt. B over Alt. A. Alt. B features the roundabout improvements that add future traffic capacity to this interstate link where maintaining the existing exit ramp lane arrangements as shown in Alt. A does not. Steve Henninger also noted that the roundabouts proposed in Alt. B serve as a gateway into South Concord separating the industrial land uses in Bow Junction (south of I-93) to the residential and small commercial land uses north of I-93.

Councilor Keith Nyhan expressed concern with truck traffic and pedestrian safety through the roundabout intersections. Gene McCarthy noted that the conceptual design shown allows for truck traffic to travel through the intersections and includes offset sidewalks for pedestrians.

Although existing today, Dick Lemieux requested that NHDOT look to relocate the I-93 northbound entrance ramp road further away from the residential neighborhood along Haig and Donovan Street if possible.

Don Lyford reported that the project schedule is programmed for late 2012 final design in anticipation for 2013/2014 construction. The NHDOT representatives also noted that a public meeting would be scheduled sometime in early 2012 to present the project options to the general public and City Council.

Following discussions, TPAC unanimously supported Alternative B which includes the construction of a new bridge offline from the existing overpass bridge and the construction of roundabout intersections at the exit ramps.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

5. Consent Reports

a. Approval of Subcommittee Nominations

There were no subcommittee nominations to consider.

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

The Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes of the Traffic Operations Committee distributed with this agenda package.

6. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

There were no referrals considered at this meeting.

7. Status report on subcommittees

a. Pedestrian Committee, Alex Vogt

Alex Vogt was not in attendance to provide a report. The next Pedestrian Committee meeting is scheduled for December 8th.

b. Bike Committee, Peter Rhodes

Peter Rhodes reported that the Bike Committee did not meet in November but will continue the development of a project priority list when they meet in December. The committee is also looking at different funding options including federal and private sources.

Dick Lemieux noted that trail funding opportunities were announced and that the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT) project team will be looking into those opportunities closely.

c. Public Transit Committee, Jennifer Kretovic

Jennifer Kretovic reported that the Public Transit Committee met in November and prepared and reviewed a draft TPAC/CAT Quarterly Report. The draft copy was distributed to TPAC for consideration. Ursula Maldonado made a motion to approve the report and forward it to City Council. Councilor Nyhan seconded the motion. In discussion of the motion, Jim Sudak asked if the report had been adopted by the Public Transit Committee at its November meeting. Jennifer Kretovic indicated that a quorum was not present at the meeting but that an email vote was conducted by members in order to meet the schedule deadlines to submit to City Council. Jim Sudak expressed concern that the quarterly report provides no details on positive results by Concord Area Transit (CAT) and outlines only negative aspects. He noted that he did not believe the report adequately outlines the progress of CAT through the first quarter of FY2012.

Through discussion on specifics of the draft report, Councilor Nyhan made a motion to amend the last page of the report to Council to include reference to the CAT report to be included in the TPAC report to Council as an attachment. Ursula Maldonado seconded the motion. After brief discussion, that motion to amend the last page of the report was unanimously supported. Ed Roberge noted that several references to dates in the report would be modified to the approval date by TPAC. The committee agreed that changing the report dates was appropriate.

Jim Sudak made reference to the last sentence in the "*General Responsiveness of CAT*" paragraph (page 3) where the statement read "Our request was met with resistance" and made a motion to amend that line. The motion was seconded by Frank Drouse. Following a lengthy discussion, the motion to amend that section of the report failed by vote.

There being no other discussions or changes to make to the report, by a vote of 5-2, TPAC accepted the report to be forwarded to City Council at its December meeting.

Jennifer Kretovic indicated that the committee will continue to find the best ways to present and report to Council the transportation programs that feed CAT and how to differentiate those from the programs under CAT and city funding. A detailed list of report deliverables will be developed to clearly outline what is expected of CAT in terms of monthly and quarterly reporting.

The Public Transit Committee discussed the grocery store proposal at Whitney Road (I-93, Exit 17). Although the committee did not have a quorum at their November meeting, the committee agreed to consider the TPAC recommendation to not support the site development project at that location via an email vote. The Committee was in concurrence of the TPAC recommendation.

The Committee reviewed Saturday service and the new Crosstown Route data as provided by CAT. Saturday service through November 12th continues to grow. As a comparison to weekday travel on the Penacook and Heights routes, Saturday service has averaged about 50 riders on the Penacook route (compared

to 120 weekday riders) and 120 riders on the Heights route (compared to 165 weekday riders). CAT and the committee will continue to monitor the progress closely. The Crosstown route is new so data is limited at this time, however CAT reported that the ridership on the new Crosstown route is about 77 riders per day – compared to an average of about 76-86 per day of the former Industrial Park route.

CNHRPC is conducting their second round of boardings and alightings survey this week. Doing the survey both before and after the route changes will allow CAT to measure attrition in ridership due to the route adjustments and will provide valuable data to plan for the future.

Jennifer Kretovic also reported the committee is considering changing the meeting day due to schedule conflicts with membership. Currently the committee meets the first Thursday of the month but will change to the third Monday of the month.

d. Traffic Operations Committee, Rob Mack

Rob Mack reported that the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met in November and was presented the I-93, Exit 12 Bridge Replacement Project. The TOC also considered narrow pavement markings on Rockingham Street and discussed a recent study in the ITE Journal regarding narrow travel lanes and speed reduction.

8. TPAC Policy Objectives/Programs/Initiatives

a. City-wide Speed and Pavement Marking Policy Update

There were no updates provided at this meeting.

9. Old Business

a. TPAC Accomplishments Report

There were no updates provided at this meeting.

10. New business

a. Back-in Angle Parking

Ed Roberge noted that staff and TPAC had recently discussed opportunities to provide back-in angled parking in Concord. While commuting through the Town of Pembroke, Ed Roberge shared photos of a recent installation of back-in angled parking along Broadway in Pembroke Village. In a discussion with the Public Works Director, Ed Roberge indicated that the town's residents seem to support the layout and the parking area has been utilized regularly.

b. TIGER Competition

Dick Lemieux reported that Jennifer Kretovic, Ed Roberge, and he participated in a recent event sponsored by Leadership Concord where three City projects were presented to a mock City Council for funding support. Jennifer Kretovic presented the Concord Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project, Ed Roberge presented the Langley parkway – Phase 3 Project, and Dick Lemieux presented the Merrimack River Greenway Trail Project. The exercise was quite informative and fun. In the end, the mock City Council selected the Main Street

project (championed by Jennifer Kretovic) as their project priority for funding.

c. Friendly Kitchen Application

Following recent discussions between staff and committee members, Ed Roberge reported that the Friendly Kitchen would be submitting site plan application materials for their site development project on South Commercial Street. Although not fully detailed at this time, pedestrian access and public transit access are certainly key issues for consideration.

11. Adjourn

There being no further items to discuss, Peter Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ursula Maldonado. The motion was unanimously supported by TPAC and the meeting adjourned.