



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

MINUTES

Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee met virtually at 5:30 p.m., on April 5, 2021, via Zoom.

Attendees: Craig Tufts, Dick Lemieux, Greg Bakos, Boyd Smith,

Guests: Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins, Deodonne Bhattarai, Sylvia Dustin, Melissa Bernardin, Rosamond Cain, Addy Cain.

Staff: Sam Durfee, Senior Planner, Staff Representative
Dave Cedarholm, City Engineer
Karen Hill, Transportation Engineer

1. Minutes of the December 14, 2020 Meeting

Dick motioned to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting, Boyd seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Sidewalk Priority List

Several guests from Ward 10 were present to talk about the need for a sidewalk on Portsmouth Street. They stressed that this section of roadway is unsafe for pedestrians given high traffic speeds and narrow shoulders. Craig provided an overview of the Sidewalk Priority List and how it was developed. He explained that the section of roadway being discussed – Portsmouth Street between Broken Ground Drive and Old Loudon Road – scored moderately well when compared to other sidewalk locations due to its proximity to a school, population density and its ability to connect residents with nearby amenities.

Dave explained the process through which a new sidewalk is constructed, including programming in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) and the need for local support. He commended the guests for their participation in the meeting.

3. Paving Schedule

Dick began the discussion by sharing that when he found the schedule published in the City Manager's Newsletter, several streets jumped out at him as opportunities for changes to the existing lane striping to create a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists. The Subcommittee discussed Loudon Road from Centre Street to Airport Road. The conclusion was that there is little that can be done with the striping west of the Loudon Rd bridge over the river

given lanes are already quite narrow. There appears to be room on Gully hill to narrow and move lanes closer to the median and provide greater shoulder width. Members suggested painting a bike symbol in the shoulder to encourage cyclists to use the shoulder. Discussion ensued over how to carry a bike lane beyond the right turn lane onto Airport Rd and the right turn lane from Hazen Dr onto Loudon Rd. The Subcommittee concluded that the length and the hill make a bike lane located between the turn land and the through lane infeasible, but a bike lane that hugs the curb and then crosses the turn lane near where the turn lane separates from the through lane would be worth having Engineering look into. It would also be possible to stripe a hashed bike lane across the Hazen Dr right turn lane on Loudon Rd.

On North Main Street between Pitman and Centre St, the Subcommittee discussed the possibility of narrowing lanes on the northbound side of N. Main St as there is significant width just beyond the intersection with no shoulder defined. Engineering will take a look at the possibility of striping in a shoulder/bike lane.

The group also looked at a section of Clinton Street and pulled up a drawing Jeff Warner did years ago. Jeff's drawing considers drainage and curbing alterations which would be outside of the scope of the proposed paving project and would not be possible at this time.

4. Loudon Road Bridge Replacement

The group discussed the timing of when a recommendation on the location of the share use path will need to go to NHDOT and HDR. It was determined that this discussion can wait for a future meeting. It was noted this should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. Demonstration Project for 2021

Sam expressed a desire to begin planning for some kind of a demonstration project for this year, potentially in early fall. The idea of a cyclovia was discussed and while cyclovias can be quite large and include many event elements, the group was inclined to start with something small, such as closing Park Street for a day for bicycle and pedestrian use. Boyd volunteered to start brainstorming event ideas.

6. Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)

Craig summarized the regional Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) scoring that occurred on April 2nd. The Concord project placed second among the regional priorities. Members felt the TAC score did not accurately reflect the financial readiness of the project, likely a result of scorers not fully understanding the City's process for allocating funds for projects. Overall, members felt the project is a very strong application and has a good chance of receiving funding.

7. General Transportation Project Updates

The Subcommittee discussed the need to update the City's Comprehensive Transportation Policy to include reducing travel lanes widths and adding width to shoulders where possible. It was also discussed that the Subcommittee should be advocating for more prescriptive language in plans to help drive progress towards shaping future infrastructure investments to be more bicycle and pedestrian friendly.

8. CNHBC Update

Craig shared that there will be a bike swap in July and that there will be additional bike fix stations installed at various private businesses, schools, and City parks in town.

9. Private Development Update/Plan Reviews

Sam shared that the Brixmor project at 80 Storrs Street is scheduled for a public hearing at the April 21st Planning Board meeting. He added that the site layout has gone through many revisions based on comments from staff. Members of the committee, who have expressed disappointment over the concept, specifically the drive-through facility in an area that is envisioned to be bicycle and pedestrian focused, repeated their frustrations, but acknowledged the current layout is an improvement from previous submissions.

10. Old Business on Hold

Nothing to report.

11. Other Discussion Items

Dick brought up the issue of vehicles parking in the shoulder along Pleasant Street in the vicinity of The Birches of Concord. These parked vehicles create a potential safety hazard for bicycles who travel in the shoulder, forcing bicycles into the travel lane. It was noted that Pleasant St at this location is an important corridor for travel to and from Concord. Karen suggested contacting Matt Walsh who would refer this to the Parking Committee, which may recommend putting up No Parking signs. Dick intends to reference the meeting minutes from this meeting in the conversation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57PM