

**City of Concord
Transportation Policy Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 24, 2013 - 6:00pm to 9:20pm
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)
Jennifer Kretovic (City Council)
Brent Todd (Penacook)
Craig Tufts, (Bicycling Community)
Ursula Maldonado (At-Large)
Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer – Staff Representative

Committee Members Not Present:

Keith Nyhan, City Council
Rob Werner, City Council
Tom Irwin (North/West Concord)
Jim Sudak (Public Transit - Concord Area Transit)
Alex Vogt (Pedestrian Community)

Staff, Visitors and Guests Present:

Ed Roberge, City Engineer – Staff Representative

2. Approval of September 26, 2013 meeting minutes

A motion to approve the September 26, 2013 minutes as submitted was made by Ursula Maldonado, seconded by Brent Todd, and approved by unanimous vote.

3. Review of TPAC Accomplishments

An updated draft of the document dated October 23, 2013 was reviewed. Several minor formatting suggestions were made. Craig Tufts provided some additional descriptive text related to the annual spring bike swap. Jennifer Kretovic provided a Walk Concord video made by TPAC-Ped and aired on Concord Community TV, as well as a link to a new video produced as a nation-wide promotion for the Safe Routes to School National Partnership. The latter video was filmed in Concord with the assistance of Concord's safe routes to school team and will be aired nationally on ABC next weekend. Staff was also requested to add another TPAC-PT accomplishment related to the implementation of a bus stop at the new Friendly Kitchen location on S. Commercial Street.

Ursula Maldonado made a motion to approve the TPAC Accomplishments as discussed and, when finalized by staff, to submit the document to City Council and post it on the city web site. The motion was seconded by Brent Todd and approved by unanimous vote. Staff

will continue to refine the document format and compile a library of reference documents and links as needed to develop the web document.

4. Presentations

a. None

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. New Business

a. Langley Parkway North Study (CIP 40) follow-up discussion on public information meetings

Ed Roberge summarized the two public information meetings held on October 8 and 10 regarding the Langley Parkway North study. Both meetings were attended largely by residents, invited by mailed notice, in the immediate vicinity of the project alignment (meeting announcements were mailed to about 200 nearby properties). A large group in excess of 90 (generally from the Auburn Street area) attended the first meeting, while a smaller group of about 60 (generally from the Penacook Street area) attended the second meeting. Most that spoke were generally opposed to the project. Concerns included: visual impact; noise; impact to currently open space used for hiking and recreation; water and drainage issues; change in property values; and potential for secondary development along the new corridor. One resident speaking in support of the project stated a strong need to reduce travel time to the medical center due to a family member needing prompt medical care.

Ed Roberge noted that a third public information meeting is scheduled for November 21 and will focus on the community-wide aspects of the project including: benefits of providing an alternative travel route to traffic otherwise cutting through dense neighborhoods; reduced life-safety travel time to the regional medical facility; and potential to avoid significant future street-widening improvements along the Pleasant Street corridor to the east.

TPAC members indicated overall strong support for the project and overall benefits it can provide to the Concord community as a whole, although they acknowledged that potential impacts to adjacent properties were also a consideration. It was suggested that public officials need to consider the overall community benefit of this project, not just the localized concerns of abutters heard thus far. TPAC members also discussed the possibility of writing a TPAC letter to the Concord Monitor encouraging people to attend the November 21 meeting. Ed Roberge suggested that notice of the community-wide meeting would be mailed to other neighborhoods such as the residential core area west of downtown, the Heights, Penacook, and area businesses.

b. Sharrow placement recommendations for Main Street from TPAC-Bike (motion requested)

Craig Tufts reported that at its last meeting, TPAC-Bike considered the lateral locations of shared-lane symbols (sharrows) on the Main Street Complete Streets Project. In particular, the current design plans indicate the symbols but do not give any dimensional offsets to denote their exact location within the shared lane. Based

on national guidelines, TPAC-Bike suggested that sharrows adjacent to parallel parking be centered about 14 feet from the outside curb, or about 6 feet from edge of parked vehicles to allow clearance from doors that might open (current plans indicated markings that are about 12 feet from the outside curb). Along areas of angle parking, TPAC-Bike suggests that sharrows be centered about 4.5 feet from the rear edge of parked vehicles (17-foot parking stall depth) to allow clearance from vehicles that might be about to back into the bicyclists travel path (current plans indicate markings that are consistent with this 21.5 foot offset).

Rob Mack noted that the requested moving of sharrows along parallel parking areas a further two feet into the travel lane would make more of the symbol subject to wear from vehicle tires. Ed Roberge noted a concern that the sharrow locations should look uniform as one travels along the corridor in either direction so that driver expectations remain consistent. Ed Roberge will share TPAC-Bike's suggestions with the Main Street design team.

c. Draft NHDOT Recommendations for the Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (2015-2024)

Rob Mack distributed a list of NHDOT highway projects currently proposed for the central New Hampshire region in the latest draft of the State's Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. Of note in the Concord area is the addition of a new project to improve the I-89 Exit 2 ramp intersections at Clinton Street (FY 2023). This project addresses increasing traffic demands between I-89 and the Clinton Street/Langley Parkway corridors. Another major project is the I-93 Bow-Concord project which has been added to the draft STIP as a needed project but would require additional funding beyond current limits.

d. Potential consolidation of TPAC-Bike and TPAC-Pedestrian

Ursula Maldonado reported that TPAC-Ped's discussion at its last meeting focused on reduced attendance at recent subcommittee meetings, some members only being available for one-half of the year and the need to recruit new members. An option discussed was to potentially consolidate TPAC-Ped with TPAC-Bike and have meetings to discuss issues related to both travel modes.

TPAC members felt that it still seemed beneficial to have distinct subcommittees for both pedestrian and bicycle issues. It was felt that a potential combined subcommittee might tend toward greater attention on bicycle issues and less on pedestrian issues. Craig Tufts noted that TPAC-Bike is also concerned with member attrition within its own subcommittee, lower meeting attendance and the need for recruiting new members. He and Ursula agreed to plan for a joint TPAC-Bike and TPAC-Ped meeting in November as a trial. He suggested that joint meetings might have benefit during the winter months when availability of subcommittee members is less.

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: Pedestrian - July 18, 2013; Bicycle - September 3, 2013; Public

Transportation – August 20, 2013; and Traffic Operations – August 20, 2013 and September 17, 2013.

8. City Council meeting update

At its October 15, 2013 meeting, City Council accepted TPAC-PT's August 12, 2013 report to Council on the CAT FY2013 Annual Progress Report and Performance Indicator Report. Also accepted was TOC's report on Centre Street driveway access concerns near The Prescription Center and TD Banknorth driveways.

9. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

There were no new referrals to consider.

10. Status report on subcommittees

a. Pedestrian Committee, Alex Vogt

See discussion Item 6d, above.

b. Bike Committee, Craig Tufts

Craig Tufts reported that TPAC-Bike discussed potential grant applications for wrong-way bike signage as well as maintenance of a bench along the Silk Farm Road bike path. Another potential grant application being considered could be the northerly end of the first phase of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (Loudon Road southerly to the northern limit of the wetland area near Terrill Park).

c. Public Transit Committee, Jennifer Kretovic

The TPAC-PT subcommittee did not meet.

d. Traffic Operations Committee, Rob Mack

Rob Mack reported that TOC met on October 15 and discussed the following: a request to add a crosswalk on N. State Street near Blossom Hill Cemetery; a concern related to constricted traffic flow due to the crosswalk Weeble on S. Main Street near Sanel Auto Parts; and a concern on one-way signage and enforcement of the one-way traffic designation along Allen Street at the Merrimack Valley High School driveway to High Street.

11. Staff Updates

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

Ed Roberge noted that bids for construction would be re-advertised in November. Also, the FHWA recently approved the design of sidewalk accessibility features along building faces.

b. US Route 3 North Improvements (CIP 35)

Ed Roberge reported that construction of the Phase 4 segment of the project has been completed, with final pavement striping completed this week. Staff would be presenting the Phase 5 project design for Village Street at the Penacook Village Association (PVA) meeting next week. A PVA video clip was also discussed that promoted traveling and walking around the Village Street area of downtown Penacook during street construction activity.

c. Sewalls Falls Bridge Replacement (CIP 22)

Ed Roberge reported that all project-related agencies have agreed on the bridge-replacement alternative and that discussion of potential mitigation measures is underway. The firm of McFarland Johnson will be retained to design the new bridge.

d. Loudon Road Corridor Improvements (CIP 19)

Rob Mack reported that the public information meeting on the project was being rescheduled for mid-December at the Heights Community Center. A public hearing and consideration of project approval would be expected at the February 2014 City Council Meeting. NHDOT project funding was approved by the Governor and Executive Council on October 16.

12. Old Business

Members discussed walking access to the Friendly Kitchen following the newly-constructed fence along the back of the Concord Center. Concerns discussed included increased walking along the railroad tracks and winter sidewalk maintenance along the I-393/S. Commercial Street approach.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at about 9:20 PM.