

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2023**

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 6:00 pm on May 11, 2023, in the Second Floor Conference Room at Concord City Hall, 41 Green Street.

Members Present: Mayor Bouley (Chair), Councilor Todd, Councilor Brown, Councilor Rice-Hawkins, Gregory Bakos, Ian McGregor, Terri Paige, Boyd Smith, Craig Tufts (late)

Members Absent: Dick Lemieux

Guests: None

City Staff: Martha Drukker (Interim City Engineer), Karen Hill (Transportation Engineer), Alec Bass (Senior Planner)

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes – March 23, 2023

The meeting minutes of March 23, 2023 were approved as amended.

Motion: Todd. Second: Paige. Passed.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. New Business

a. *Discuss Transportation Capital Improvement Projects and Priorities.*

Hill circulated transportation related CIP project details for discussion. Drukker mentioned that Engineering and General Services met to coordinate upcoming projects.

Airport

This section was not included in the handout. Drukker explained specific projects in the upcoming CIP related to airport upgrades and maintenance. CIP #383 includes FY2024 dollars for the design of a new Airport Terminal Building, for construction in FY2026. Drukker indicated that this project is likely to be primarily funded through a federal grant. It was also discussed that CIP #72 is related to

Runway Pavement Improvements, which will also be primarily federally funded and are scheduled to begin in 2026.

Bridges

Drukker discussed CIP #518 which proposes funding in FY2024 for bridge maintenance of various City bridges. She explained that the intent of this work is to maintain and preserve the infrastructure to extend service life and avoid costly replacements in the future.

The Committee also discussed CIP #588 – Loudon Road Bridge (over Merrimack River) Improvement dollars are primarily funded through the State Municipal Bridge Aid Program. This project was initially intended to be a deck replacement, but the State added additional funds to construct a 14-foot wide multi-use path along the north side of the bridge, for safer pedestrian access and connectivity. It was discussed that this project is separate from the I-93 widening project that will ultimately tie into this cross section of the bridge and carry it to the west along Loudon Road. Drukker confirmed that at the last City Council meeting, Council appropriated additional funds for the design and agreed to enter into the municipal management agreement with New Hampshire Department of Transportation. Preliminary design will begin soon with construction anticipated to begin in 2025. Drukker confirmed that this project is supported by the State as it is a red listed bridge and has been the biggest appropriation through the bridge aid program.

Downtown

Drukker explained that CIP #589 was intended to carry the Main Street streetscape improvements up the side streets in the Civic District from Main Street to State Street. She explained that this effort has been pushed out beyond the 5-year street paving moratorium and indicated a future visioning session would likely take place to also include existing sidewalk improvements from State to Green as well.

It was discussed that downtown squares are proposed to be improved through CIP#579 in future years.

Intersections

The Committee discussed CIP #31 – McKee Square intersection improvements. Drukker mentioned that the City was successful in applying for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding through the State. Engineering is working with a consultant to finalize a traffic study update, which will include an analysis and proposed improvements at the intersection of Broadway and West as well. FY2023 dollars have been used to fund this effort as well as complete

current traffic counts and existing survey. Funding in FY2024 is intended to continue with design of the preferred alternatives after public input.

The Committee discussed CIP #283 which is intended to improve/maintain traffic signals, hardware, and operations. Drukker explained that the work at N State/Washington/Ferry is to upgrade specific intersection infrastructure that is necessary to keep the intersection operational. All other downtown signal improvements have been pushed out beyond the 5-year street paving moratorium. Paige advocated for consideration of transit signal prioritization.

It was discussed that CIP #519 – Manchester Street/Old Turnpike Road Intersection Improvements has been accepted by the State to include as a part of the I-93 widening project.

CIP #520 – Intersection Safety Improvements has been modified to coordinate with CIP #78 – Annual Highway Improvement Program. It is proposed to fund the intersection reconstruction/realignment of Abbot Road and Sewalls Falls Road in FY2024 to reduce costs and improve safety and traffic operations.

CIP #541 – Regional Drive/Chenell Drive Intersection Improvements was not further discussed due to it being scheduled for a future year.

CIP #570 – Pleasant/Warren/Fruit Intersection Roundabout
Drukker explained that this project is a higher priority now with the removal of Langley Parkway from the CIP. It was discussed that pedestrian and congestion improvements at this intersection are needed. The Committee discussed that this intersection would be a good candidate for a future CMAQ Grant.

Sidewalks

CIP #17 has proposed funding in FY2024 for sidewalks along Airport Road, Pembroke Road and Chenell Drive. Airport Road sidewalk is proposed along the west side of the road within the limits of the paving program (from where the existing sidewalk terminates, just south of Ripley Street, to #184. This section of sidewalk ranked #5 of #117 in the TPAC sidewalk priority list (attached for reference). Pembroke Road (from Guay Street to Sheep Davis Rd) is ranked #7 and Chenell (from Regional Drive to Pembroke Road) is ranked #58.

Hill discussed that these sidewalks were added to CIP #17 to be constructed in part with CIP#78 to reduce costs. They are listed in the City's Sidewalk Master Plan and in the priority list that ranked sidewalks by criteria such as: safety, school proximity, new access, latent demand, connectivity, and existing demand.

The Committee discussed that the Airport Road sidewalk would connect a larger residential neighborhood to the existing sidewalk network that connects to Loudon Road. The Committee also discussed the Pembroke and Chenell sidewalks are in an area where folks who work in the office parks walk at lunch time and many Army National Guard members run. There was also mention of the 123 units of workforce housing that is being constructed at #195 Pembroke Road. There was also discussion about the lack of resources available to maintain and clear existing sidewalks in the City and concerns were raised with adding another 1.4 miles of sidewalks.

CIP #380 – Neighborhood Safety Improvements was explained as an effort between the City and MVSD to make the campus and surrounding streets safer and more walkable. The plan to construct parking and sidewalk along Allen Street is one phase of the overall campus/neighborhood plan. Because GMI, the City's contractor is paving in Penacook, it is most cost effective to complete this work now. MVSD is funding a majority of the project with the City share intended to assist with adding sidewalk along the City Street.

CIP #543 – Merrimack River Greenway Trail Project, TPAC continues to support the phased design and construction of the MRGT through Concord. Drukker discussed that proposed funding in 2024 would supplement grants for the construction of Phase II of the trail that would run along the river and the City-owned cornfields, from the future proposed boardwalk at Terrill Park, to Loudon Road.

Street Corridors

CIP #36 – Manchester Street/Route 3 Corridor Improvements are programmed in the NHDOT's Ten Year Plan. Drukker indicated that the Right-of-Way process is programmed to begin in 2024, which will include outreach to abutters. The roadway will have a travel way in each direction with a center (TWLTL), and sidewalks along both sides of the road as well as raised median crosswalks to improve pedestrian safety.

CIP #505 – South Main Street Corridor Improvements

There was a brief discussion on whether this project should be moved up in the CIP as there is a lot of development happening in the area and parking and traffic concerns have been raised more recently. Hill indicated that the Railyard housing project is constructing a section of improvements to install a left turn lane at the intersection of Langdon Ave and South Main. Hill also mentioned a re-striping effort that was introduced to the Parking Committee to better control parking along this corridor and improve safety.

New Streets

CIP #18 – Storrs Street Extension, North, continues to be supported by TPAC as it would allow for redevelopment and MRGT connection opportunities.

CIP #502 – Whitney Road extension, also continues to be supported by the Committee and it will provide connection and introduce opportunity for more development.

Street Rehabilitation

CIP #78 – Annual Highway Improvement Program, Drukker explained that Staff is developing other CIPs to coordinate closely with this program. Councilor Todd discussed his concern with River Road being overlaid in 2024 with a history of neighbor complaints about speeding. He asked if there were any traffic calming elements that could be incorporated into the paving program. Drukker confirmed that Engineering is working closely with GSD to coordinate CIP projects and other improvements with the paving program. She also mentioned that the Transportation Master Plan will also be a key factor in determining improvements on certain streets and will help to prioritize CIP projects in the future.

5. Old Business

None.

6. Consent Reports

- a. *Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes*
 - i. TPAC-BP - None
 - ii. TPAC-PT – December 6, 2022

7. City Council Meeting Update

Loudon Road Bridge dollars appropriated, as discussed above.

8. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

None.

9. Status Report on Subcommittees

- a. *Traffic Operations Committee (TOC), Karen Hill*
No update.
- b. *Public Transportation Committee (TPAC-PT), Terri Paige*
Paige mentioned that transit operating funds were proposed to be increased in the State's budget, the bill is now going through the process. She encouraged everyone to advocate for it if supportive. It was also discussed that at the City's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice & Belonging Committee meetings, there was a lot of discussion about public transit. The Committee suggested promoting the

service via Concord TV or a public forum. Paige confirmed she has spoken to Concord TV and will have a series of public input meetings, relating to the NHDOT's CAT Bus Service Study and proposed route changes, in the near future. The City will coordinate with CAT to help reach a broader audience at that time. It was also brought up that weekend service was requested at the DEIJB meetings.

- c. *Bicycle / Pedestrian Committee (TPAC-BP), Craig Tufts*
No update.

10. Project Updates (Staff)

None.

11. Other Discussion Items

Councilor Rice-Hawkins discussed a need for additional awareness of downtown parking garages to stop people from hogging spaces on Main Street. The Committee felt this was a topic to be discussed at the Parking Committee.

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm by unanimous consent.

13. Upcoming Meeting Dates

June 22, 2023