

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF AUGUST 24, 2023**

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 6:00 pm on August 24, 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, Nicole Fox, Dick Lemieux, Ian McGregor, Terri Paige, Boyd Smith

Members Absent: Craig Tufts

Guests: Tim Blagden

City Staff: Mike Bezanson (City Engineer), Karen Hill (Transportation Engineer)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes – May 11, 2023

The meeting minutes of May 11, 2023 were approved.

Motion: Todd. Second: Paige. Passed.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. New Business

a. *Discuss New Hampshire Department of Transportation 2025-2034 Draft Ten Year Plan.*

Hill presented a PowerPoint to inform the Committee of the Concord projects that are in the current NHDOT Ten Year Plan (TYP). She also discussed a few key points from the 2025-2034 GACIT Meeting and two new projects that are proposed in Concord in the new TYP. She mentioned that NHDOT is proposing to push the construction start date of the Bow-Concord I-93 widening project by 3 years, from 2026 to 2029.

b. *Discuss lighted stop signs and potential revisions to the City's Stop Sign Policy.*

Hill presented a fact sheet for lighted or flashing STOP signs, which included statistics, cost, and a few options. She asked for Committee input on whether there was support to install these at specific problem intersections in the City.

She also mentioned that it may be prudent to update the City's Stop Sign Policy in the future. The Committee discussed a few intersection options that were candidates for a trial. Staff will propose purchase of a few in the next budget cycle.

5. Old Business

None.

6. Consent Reports

a. *Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes*

i. TPAC-BP - None

ii. TPAC-PT – None

7. City Council Meeting Update

Mayor Bouley's proposed appointment to the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee: Nicole Fox. Welcome Nicole, happy to have you!

8. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

None.

9. Status Report on Subcommittees

a. *Traffic Operations Committee (TOC), Karen Hill*

Hill shared the last three TOC agendas in the meeting packet for informational purposes. No discussion.

b. *Public Transportation Committee (TPAC-PT), Terri Paige*

Paige mentioned that in the first time since 2014, yearly ridership surpassed 100,000. This means that they are eligible for the highest tier of State funding, increasing their current funding by \$68,000. She also mentioned that the Concord to Laconia route is tentatively launching in October pending additional driver hires. The Committee discussed the process for additional routes. Paige discussed that Concord Area Transit (CAT) works with CNHRPC to use grant money to study new services. Currently, they are studying an intercity route from Concord to Manchester, down Manchester Street through Hooksett. She mentioned that it would likely be a multi-year process. She discussed that routes typically need to be identified in the NHDOT State Transit Plan to be funded through grants, routes outside of the plan would likely not be matched with federal funds. She shared that the plan can be found on the NHDOT State Transit website.

Mayor Bouley mentioned that he and City Councilors get a lot of questions about public transportation. He thought that having Paige sit down with Stefanie Breton, the City's Public Information Officer on her podcast to discuss CAT and all

that they offer would be helpful to get information out to the Community. Hill will connect Paige with Breton.

- c. *Bicycle / Pedestrian Committee (TPAC-BP), Craig Tufts*
Hill mentioned that Alec Bass, Senior Planner, is working to schedule quarterly meetings. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 11, 2023 @ 5:30pm.

10. Project Updates (Staff)

- a. *CIP #17 – Sidewalk, Bikeway and Streetscape Improvements*
Hill shared that the three proposed sidewalk segments along Airport Road, Pembroke Road, and Chenell Drive were approved in the FY24 budget to be completed with the Paving Program (CIP #78) next Spring/Summer. She presented some preliminary typical cross sections for each roadway. The Committee briefly discussed the project but Hill confirmed that the Bicycle-Pedestrian Subcommittee will discuss in more detail as the project moves forward. It was also mentioned that there will be a neighborhood meeting to discuss with residents in the future.

The Committee would like Staff to examine other cross sections on Chenell Drive, including a cycle track or wider shoulders/bike lanes due to the width of the existing roadway and Right-of-Way.

The Committee also briefly discussed the condition and planned maintenance of existing sidewalks, particularly in the downtown area. Hill mentioned that CNHRPC has been collecting data throughout the City on existing sidewalk condition. They have built out a mapping database which can be viewed and used for planning purposes.

- b. *CIP #31 – McKee Square Intersection Improvements*
Discussed under Item 4a above.
- c. *CIP #520 – Intersection Safety Improvements (Sewalls/Abbott)*
Hill shared a concept plan of the proposed intersection improvements at the intersection of Sewalls Falls Road and Abbott Road. She mentioned that this effort is focused on intersection safety for specific intersections with skewed geometry, multiple side-street approaches, sight distance limitations, and potential for high-speed turns. These projects are typically constructed in conjunction with the paving program. She discussed that the next step would be a neighborhood meeting this Fall, followed by Council approval, and construction next Spring when General Services overlays Abbott Road.

There was a brief discussion about the private development project in the area of the intersection and the duration of construction and coordination between the two projects.

Lemieux felt that it may be appropriate to widen Abbott Road to include wider shoulder, at a minimum, in the vicinity of the new intersection.

11. Other Discussion Items

Rice-Hawkins inquired about the recent thru trucking complaints on Hoit Road. Hill confirmed that Concord Police Department had been out last week enforcing. Rice-Hawkins/Hill will follow up with Thomas for a summary. She asked that the City send a letter to area companies.

The Committee briefly discussed the proposed middle school build site off of S Curtisville Road. Hill confirmed that a traffic study would be performed and the City would have a chance to review it. TPAC will likely have a chance to review draft plans and other information as it moves forward.

Smith asked for an update on the proposed I-93 Deck Park Study. It was confirmed that VHB was awarded the contract this week and Beth Fenstermacher would be managing the project.

The Committee discussed the Transportation Master Plan in regards to bicycle planning. Hill discussed that the plan is programmed in the City's Capital Improvement Program and more discussion is anticipated as it moves forward.

The Committee discussed potentially updating the City's 2015 Comprehensive Transportation Policy or "Complete Streets" Policy. Fox volunteered to send examples. The Committee agreed to discuss further at a future meeting. It was mentioned that NHDOT recently updated their statewide bicycle and pedestrian plan, with assistance from Alta Planning, which could be used as guidance.

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm by unanimous consent.

13. Upcoming Meeting Dates

September 28, 2023

October 26, 2023