



# 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 at 5:30 p.m., on May 6, 2024, in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall at 41 Green Street.

Attendees: Chairman Craig Tufts, Nicole Fox, Greg Bakos

Absent: Boyd Smith, Dick Lemieux

Staff: Karen Hill (Transportation Engineer), AnnMarie Skinner (Acting City Planner)

Guests: Ian McGregor (TPAC)

#### **1. Call to Order**

*Chair Tufts called the meeting to order at 5:32pm*

#### **2. Approval of Minutes – February 5, 2024**

*On a motion made by Bakos, seconded by Fox, the meeting minutes of February 5, 2024 were approved. All in favor.*

#### **3. New Business**

##### **a) TAP Grant Project Considerations** *(projects are typically around \$1 million)*

Tufts discussed that a new round of NHDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding is likely to be announced soon as it has been four years since the last round. He mentioned that Concord was awarded funding last round for the Merrimack River Greenway Trail segment between the Boscawen Town Line and Sewalls Falls Road. He added that it has not moved forward yet due to Right-of-Way challenges. He suggested that Concord typically selects a project for consideration. The Subcommittee then brainstormed ideas and projects for consideration:

##### **i. Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT)**

The Subcommittee discussed that there is a pending RAISE Grant application to finish the remaining segments of the trail. It is unknown whether that grant will be successful and whether or not the City will know before the TAP application deadline.

ii. Concord Lake Sunapee Trail

The Subcommittee discussed that a bridge over the Contoocook River would be needed. Tufts mentioned that there is a potential for a prefabricated bridge, and it is likely that the Friends of the Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail (FCLSRT) would need City support or grant funds to assist in a project of that scale.

The Subcommittee discussed that the connection is shown in the City’s trail plan but is not currently in the City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

The Subcommittee thought that the FCLSRT should engage City Management on this in the future.

iii. Sidewalk projects and paving

Hill mentioned that all paving streets (over the next 5 years) with sidewalks shown in the master plan are ranked very low in the sidewalk priority list, #90 or below out of 117.

The Subcommittee then reviewed the top 10 sidewalks in the ranking list.

Ranking	Street Name	From	To	Average Score
1	<u>S. Main Street</u>	Mckinley Street	Broadway	100.0
2	<u>Loudon Road (Route 9)</u>	Old Loudon Road	Sheep Davis Road	96.0
3	<u>S. Main Street</u>	North of Langdon Ave	North of McKinley Street	91.0
4	<u>Clinton Street (Route 13)</u>	Mandevilla Lane	S. Fruit Street	90.0
5	<u>Airport Road</u>	Manchester Street	Ripley Street	88.0
6	<u>Pleasant Street</u>	S. Fruit Street	Pine Street	85.0
7	<u>Pembroke Road</u>	Guay Street	Sheep Davis	84.0
8	<u>Pleasant Street</u>	Fisk Road	Minot Street	78.0
9	<u>Liberty Street</u>	Wyman Street	Franklin Street	76.0
10	<u>South Street</u>	Bow Street	Roosevelt Ave	75.0

The Subcommittee discussed the need for rankings 1 and 3 and considered bringing the recommendation to full TPAC. Bakos mentioned that the need/demand does not seem to make this a competitive TAP project, aside from just completing a portion of the City’s sidewalk network. Tufts did mention the competitiveness of TAP and agreed that it may not be a “shiny” enough project.

It was also discussed that all segments should be considered with the paving program.

iv. Loudon Road (Gully Hill)“Cycle Track” Concept.

It was discussed that this project would provide improved bicycle and pedestrian connection from the Heights to the proposed MRGT and proposed Loudon Road Bridge shared-use path.

Hill mentioned that it is not in the City’s CIP and believes it would be challenging to chase grant money for it at this time. The Subcommittee agreed that this is the project that would be competitive in a TAP application and asked Hill to speak with Management about getting it into the City’s CIP.

**b) 2010 Bike Master Plan – Recommendations and Implementation Progress Review**

The Subcommittee discussed the need to update the plan but agreed that it is best to be included in a comprehensive multimodal transportation chapter of the master plan.

Skinner mentioned that the master plan update is slated to begin in FY 2026.

The Subcommittee felt that, in the interim, reviewing the status of the hot spots identified in the existing plan, and potentially ranking them with specific criteria, could help them be implemented as roadways and intersections are improved.

Tufts mentioned that he has access to various data including level of traffic stress, centrality/pinch points, and origin and destination.

Fox mentioned that there is vulnerable road user data also available from NHDOT.

The Subcommittee agreed that this data could be helpful in reviewing the hot spots. It was agreed upon to add this analysis/discussion to the next agenda to get the effort started.

Hill mentioned that she has updated the monthly bicycle-pedestrian accident data that used to be reviewed regularly. She will share out with the next agenda to be discussed/reviewed.

**c) I-93 State Bike Path – Merrimack River Bridge Crossing (136/116) Update**

Tufts shared counts from 2016, showing 86 average daily users with about 75% bicyclists. He noted that the data showed more traffic on weekdays. Tufts mentioned that he could perform a more recent count soon.

Hill mentioned that at their March 11, 2024 meeting, Council authorized the City Manager to submit a letter to the NHDOT in regards to project “Concord 41468,” in the Ten Year Plan, requesting consideration be given to improve and expand the existing pedestrian walkway on the I-93 Northbound Bridge (136/117) over the Merrimack River, that connects East Concord (Exit 16) to New Hampshire Technical Institute.

She added that the letter is drafted and will be sent to the State soon.

**4. Old Business**

None

**5. Paving Schedule and the CIP Update**

None

**6. TPAC Meeting Update**

None

**7. Bike/Ped Subcommittee Referrals from TPAC**

None

**8. Other Discussion Items**

McGregor expressed interest in officially joining the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee will put forth official referral to TPAC at the next meeting.

**9. Adjourn**

*On a motion made by Tufts, seconded by Fox the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. All in favor.*