

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2024**

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 6:00 pm on May 2, 2024, in the Second Floor Conference Room at Concord City Hall, 41 Green Street.

Members Present: Greg Bakos (Chair), Councilor Brown, Ian McGregor, Terri Paige, Craig Tufts, Nicole Fox

Members Absent: Councilor Todd, Boyd Smith, Councilor Foote

Guests: Ari Pollack

City Staff: Mike Bezanson (City Engineer), Karen Hill (Transportation Engineer), Alec Bass (Senior Planner)

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. Introductions

3. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes – March 28, 2024

The meeting minutes of March 28, 2024 were approved as amended.

On a motion made by Tufts, seconded by Paige, the minutes were approved with the modification to correct typos on page 5. All in favor.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. New Business

- a. *Resident concerns regarding intersections along Liberty Street, in particular, the intersections at Valley and Forest Streets.*

Hill provided a summary, informing the Committee that this item also went before the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC). She summarized the DRAFT TOC meeting minutes. She mentioned that there were no known accidents in the area and that she is planning to collect speed data on Liberty Street this summer. TOC is going to revisit the concerns once speed data is collected.

The Committee discussed options which may assist with traffic calming in the area, including striping of the roadway, reducing the speed limit to 25 MPH, and

adding a mid-block crosswalk and sidewalk extension to the south of Valley Street. However, the Committee agreed with TOC and believes the first action needs to be to collect speed data to determine if speed is an issue.

- b. *Resident concerns about pedestrian safety on N Main Street, from Centre Street to at least Ferry Street.*

Hill provided a summary, indicating that this item also went before TOC. Sharing that at TOC, Major indicated that the crosswalks would be restriped as soon the streets are swept and weather permits. Hill also shared that since TOC, General Services has installed flanking crosswalk signs and placed the WEEBLES at the Pitman and Court Street crosswalks. Hill mentioned that TOC shared with the resident that this area is currently being discussed for short and long term improvements as specific projects and paving in the area move forward.

The Committee agreed that no further action is needed at this time.

6. **Old Business**

- a. *Review and discuss DRAFT Complete Streets Vision.*

Fox shared that the working group has been preparing the visioning document and scope of work to go before TPAC and the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission. The hope is to create a policy which will help to guide the transportation master plan update.

Fox shared that the working group needs to meet again at least one more time before presenting it to Staff, Management, TPAC, and then City Council.

7. **Consent Reports**

- a. *Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes*
- i. TPAC-BP – None
 - ii. TPAC-PT – None

8. **City Council Meeting Update**

Hill shared that Staff is working to add the TPAC CIP Priority Report to the next City Council agenda for their review prior to the budget hearings.

9. **TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Mayor**

- a. *Referral from City Council in regards to a communication from Ari Pollack requesting consideration be made to relocate the Concord Area Transit (CAT) bus stop now located between 214 and 220 North Main Street in Concord. (Referred back to TPAC on 3/11/24)*

Ari Pollack, Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell (law firm), representing his request, gave a brief summary and thanked the Committee for taking this item under advisement again.

Pollack presented reasons for the request to relocate the bus stop and provided the Committee with a packet of materials, including exhibits and photos, which included potential solutions that the law firm has considered.

Pollack shared that he has asked for the police call records from the law firm's property since the relocation of the bus stop. He shared some examples and discussed the frequency of calls the firm has made to the Concord Police Department related to their property and the area around the bus stop. Pollack did not provide a copy of the call logs to the Committee, but did offer to provide it if requested.

Hill shared a revised matrix which included the location proposed by Pollack.

Paige commented that an advantage to the current location is that the bus can pull completely out of the travel lane, where the proposed location recommended by the law firm is more restrictive, in width and between parked vehicles.

Brown shared that the Parking Committee would likely recommend a public meeting before removing on street parking in the area.

Pollack did share that the Public Safety Committee recommended the bus stop be relocated, stating that they did not specify a particular location. He shared concerns that folks waiting for the bus stop are gathering in their driveway and that it is only a matter of time before someone gets hit. He also mentioned concerns of folks loitering in their parking lot. Bass suggested a decorative fence to deter wandering pedestrians.

The Committee discussed that Pollack's proposed location is desirable for patrons congregating at the stop because there is more space with the wider sidewalk and grass strip, however, the proposed location is less desirable as it would:

- be further from an unsignalized crosswalk,
- further from lighting,
- have impacts to parking,
- have less width for the bus to pull over on the busy road,
- and need an ADA accessible platform constructed in the grass panel.

The Committee also added the existing location is desirable for safety and bus service operation.

McGregor made a motion, seconded by Brown, to recommend to Council that the current bus stop is the most suitable location, from a transportation perspective, as reflected in the updated report and associated matrix.

5 in favor, 0 opposed, Fox abstained due to not being present for the full discussion.

10. Status Report on Subcommittees

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

Hill circulated the TOC agenda for information, no further discussion.

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

Paige shared that CLC has been doubling numbers but is not yet at 200. Usage for work commute does seem to be increasing. She mentioned that the CAT facility is no longer planning to relocate at this time and is fully staffed. A Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for next week.

c. *Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee (TPAC-BP), Craig Tufts*

Tufts shared that the Subcommittee meets next on Monday 5/6. He mentioned that they will be discussing potential projects for the upcoming TAP round.

McGregor shared tomorrow Intown Concord is having a pedals and petals event which includes a bicycle ride.

Tufts shared that Bike to Work Day is this month as well.

11. Project Updates (Staff)

a. *CIP #17 – Sidewalk, Bikeway and Streetscape Improvements*

Hill shared that Chenell drive roadway and sidewalk are based paved and the roadway has been narrowed to 2 – 10' lanes and 2 – 5' shoulders. She mentioned that the Airport Road sidewalk continues to present challenges but the team is working to get design plans completed as soon as possible. She mentioned that the roadway will be shifted to the east to provide more space for a grass panel and sidewalk to minimize drainage and water line conflicts and challenges with driveway grading.

b. *CIP #31 – McKee Square Intersection Improvements*

Hill shared the next step is to hold a public meeting.

c. *CIP #520 – Intersection Safety Improvements (Sewalls/Abbott)*
Hill shared that these improvements will be completed with the paving project.

d. *CIP #543 – Merrimack River Greenway Trail*
Tufts shared that construction of Phase II through the sunflower fields is slated to begin in June.

Hill shared that Bartlett is working on surveying the Northern portion, including the ROW, and that the City is working with NHDOT and CSX on the purchase and sales agreement.

e. *CIP #657 – Deck Park Feasibility Study*
Hill shared that VHB has engaged architects and is working to prepare high level alternative concepts to bring back to Staff and the Public.

11. Other Discussion Items

McGregor commented that he recalls the Committee inquiring about striping roadways twice per year and noticed during the earlier conversation that the North Main Street crosswalks were not striped since 2022.

Hill shared that typically after streets are swept, GSD has a contractor perform long line striping on certain streets in the Spring and Fall while some lower volume streets only get a single application. The crosswalk striping is completed by GSD staff and is done as often as possible, based upon priority and resources.

12. Adjourn

On a motion made by Paige, seconded by Tufts, the meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM by unanimous consent.

13. Upcoming Meeting Dates

June 27, 2024

July 25, 2024