

**CITY OF CONCORD  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF JUNE 27, 2024**

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 6:00 pm on June 27, 2024, in the Second Floor Conference Room at Concord City Hall, 41 Green Street.

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

*Members Absent:* Councilor Foote

*Guests:* Mayor Champlin

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

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Introductions**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

*Approval of Minutes – May 2, 2024*

The meeting minutes of May 2, 2024 were approved.

On a motion made by Paige, seconded by Fox, the minutes were approved. All in favor. Abstain: Smith.

**4. Public Comment**

None.

**5. New Business**

- a. *Councilor Todd shared a communication from Representative Steve Shurtleff in regards to a concept of a feasibility study of using the existing NHDOT rail line that runs along I-93 up to exit 17 for light rail or a trolley to help ease traffic congestion along Mountain Road, Sewalls Falls Road, and N State Street.*

Todd read the communication to the Committee and discussed that he was just looking for initial thoughts from the Committee. After brief discussion about the feasibility, cost implications, and pending status of the Development, the Committee felt that it may be worthy of further study for feasibility.

- b. *Councilor Brown asked the Committee to explore lighted bus stops, in particular the bus stop near Memorial Field.*

Hill mentioned that TOC could look at moving an existing streetlight to improve illumination in certain areas, however, any new street lights would need to go through City Council.

Brown mentioned a traffic study for the middle school.

**6. Old Business**

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

The working group presented draft document that they defined as a policy now instead of a vision. The hope is that City Staff would review the document before it is finalized to present to Council. Fox mentioned that after approval, it is suggested that CNHRPC work on a larger more descriptive document with guidelines, etc.

There was a brief discussion about how this effort would work with the upcoming master plan update, which is tentatively scheduled for FY 2026.

Questions came up in regards to exceptions, who will accept them, and what the process would be. Fox and McGregor agreed that the document needed to have teeth, need developers to comply, through Planning Board, ZBA?

Councilor Todd thanked the working group for their efforts and shared a handful of comments/suggestions:

- The document is difficult to read without numbering, referencing the 2015 document as an example.
- He explained that he feels the document can be outlined into three main components.
- There are points missing from the 2015 version to the current.
- He also mentioned a few additions to consider.

The Committee continued discussions surrounding the policy update, including that the full document would expand on community engagement plan, design guidelines, performance measures, street typologies, and other analyses/criteria. The Committee envisions it covering a breadth of City issues, beyond Engineering, a holistic City-wide approach to help break down existing silos. Some members would like to see it in place before the Master Plan as a guiding document.

It was further discussed that the policy should be specific in who and how exceptions are approved, for example, is it added to the Planning Board project checklist as an additional document that must be followed?

The Committee discussed the desire to circulate the completed draft to other City Committees for their input and comments.

Fox asked the Committee to get any comments to Hill by July 12<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Consent Reports**

- a. *Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes*
  - i. TPAC-BP – February 5, 2024
  - ii. TPAC-PT – January 9, 2024
- b. *TPAC-BP request to appoint Ian McGregor to the Subcommittee.*
- c. *TPAC-PT request to appoint Vincent Pagano to the Subcommittee.*

**8. City Council Meeting Update**

Hill shared that Council referred the N Main Street bus stop concerns to Staff to identify another location.

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

- a. *Referral from City Council in regards to a communication from Councilor Schlosser in regards to resident request for sidewalk and reduced 25 MPH speed limit on Iron Works Road.*

Hill shared a summary of resident's concerns and discussion at the June TOC Meeting. Hill mentioned that the Police Department has agreed to perform directed patrols on Iron Works Road, in addition to deploying their speed trailer this week. The Committee agreed that the 39 MPH 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds were concerning for the residential context of the neighborhood, coupled with the presence of a City Park and lack of sidewalk. Hill mentioned that prior efforts to increase signing to mitigate speeds were unsuccessful, adding that changing the speed limit without changing the context of the roadway will not necessarily result in lower speeds.

The Committee discussed potential traffic calming solutions including striping, temporary or permanent median islands, and gateway treatments. Todd suggested planting some street trees along the park frontage for traffic calming. The Committee suggested that the park land could be used for public art or a gateway sign, perhaps a student project that could highlight the transition from a rural collector street to an urban neighborhood.

In regards to the sidewalk request, Hill shared that the sidewalk segment on Iron Works Road, between South Street and Birch Street, is ranked #34 out of 117 in the City's Pedestrian Master Plan. The Committee agreed that the sidewalk priority versus actual speeds on the roadway should be reevaluated during the upcoming master planning process.

The Committee also recognized the need to study these “gateway” areas, City-wide, in the upcoming master plan to identify any improvements that could help to mitigate these ongoing concerns.

- b.** *Referral from City Council in regards to a communication from Councilor Schlosser in regards to resident request for reduced 15 MPH speed limit on Birch Street.*

Hill shared a summary of resident’s concerns and discussion at the June TOC Meeting.

Hill mentioned that after speaking with the City Solicitor, she believes that the City could regulate speed on Birch Street under RSA 265:60, under which circumstances, Birch Street would be posted at 35 mph. She shared that NH RSA 265:63 would allow the City to, on the basis of an engineering or traffic investigation, decrease the limit outside an urban district but not to less than 25 miles per hour.

Hill shared the speed data that was summarized over the month of May. She mentioned that average and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds did not exceed 25 MPH. The Committee recognized that there could be an occasional vehicle traveling in excess of a reasonable speed, but that occurs everywhere and a speed limit sign would likely not mitigate this issue. The Committee recommends no action as the necessary traffic study would potentially result in a 25 MPH minimum posting, which is the speed that most vehicles are already traveling on Birch Street.

**10. Status Report on Subcommittees**

- a.** *Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee (TPAC-BP), Craig Tufts*  
Tufts mentioned that the Subcommittee discussed the crosswalks on N Main Street in advance of the upcoming paving program.
- b.** *Traffic Operations Committee (TOC), Karen Hill*  
Hill circulated the TOC agenda for information. There was a brief discussion on items 3e and 4b.
- c.** *Public Transportation Subcommittee (TPAC-PT), Terri Paige*  
No update.

**11. Project Updates (Staff)**

- a.** *CIP #17 – Sidewalk, Bikeway and Streetscape Improvements*  
Hill shared that the Chenell drive sidewalk is nearly completed and that the roadway has been narrowed. She mentioned that the Airport Road sidewalk

continues to present challenges but the team is working to complete the design plans as soon as possible in order for construction to begin.

- 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*  
Hill shared that construction of Phase II through the sunflower fields has begun. Tufts mentioned that the City was not successful in receiving the RAISE grant funding for the remainder of the trail.
- e. *CIP #657 – Deck Park Feasibility Study*  
Hill shared that the consultant and architect are working to prepare high level alternative concepts to bring back to Staff and the Public.

**11. Other Discussion Items**

None.

**12. Adjourn**

On a motion made by Paige, seconded by Fox, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM by unanimous consent.

**13. Upcoming Meeting Dates**

July 25, 2024

August 22, 2024