

**CITY OF CONCORD
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
of the
TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2024**

The Public Transportation subcommittee of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 12:00pm, on January 9, 2024 in the Second Floor Budget Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street.

Attendees: Terri Paige, Chair
Councilor Brent Todd
Craig Tufts – Regional Planner, CNHRPC
James Ziegra, Disability Rights Center NH

Absent: None

Staff: Karen Hill, Transportation Engineer

Guests Present:
Landryne and Fisto - Citizens

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

2. Introduction of invited guests and potential new members

The Chair welcomed attendees and brief introductions were made.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 9, 2024 meeting were presented for approval.
(Motion-Todd; Second-Tufts; Unanimous)

4. Referrals

After some discussion Todd recommended that the group begin discussions now on these two referrals in order to bring recommendations to full TPAC at the January meeting. Discussion as follows:

- 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.**

The group reviewed the current location and other possible options for relocating the bus stop. Upon review it was clear that there were few other options where the stop could be located that would allow a safe approach and merge back into traffic for the bus and access for passengers. The reasons for not moving it from the current location include:

- The current location allows for the safe deployment of the accessible lift or ramp on the bus. Other locations do not have sufficient space or access for this.

- The current location does not interfere with existing street parking. Other locations would require the loss of at least two on street parking spots.
- Moving the bus stop further north on this stretch of road would create difficulties with merging back into traffic to continue up Bouton Street.
Paige will collect stop counts for both buses currently utilizing this stop and will have those available at the TPAC meeting when this request is reviewed. Hill will create a comparison matrix of different locations along the corridor with considerations discussed that this meeting to present at the TPAC meeting to aid in discussion.

b. Referral from City Council in regards to a communication from Mark Coen, Thayer Pond Road, asking that consideration be given to implementing a "service modification" to the Penacook Bus Route to provide a stop at the Beaver Meadow Golf Course.

The group discussed the possibilities of deviating the existing Penacook route to accommodate the request to have a stop at the Beaver Meadows recreation area. It would not be plausible to make such a long distance deviation on that route without creating a serious negative impact on the timing of that route and consequently the timings of transfers and connections with the other two bus routes. Terri will work with the Region 3 Mobility Manager to come up with alternatives and resources that might work to fill the need to transport participants to the recreation center.

5. Public Comment

Fisto thanked the group for allowing him to attend and stated that he is working to increase awareness of transportation needs of the New American populations in the City of Concord. He specifically requested that future planning take into consideration increasing frequency of the routes and serving more area on the Heights. Paige thanked him for participating and invited him to come to future meetings. She also gave him her contact so that he could reach out with any future requests or questions.

6. Updates/Old Business

a. CAT Quick Report

Paige did a summary presentation of the Quick Report. Here are short summaries of discussions generated by the report and asked for any questions or comments. With none made the group moved on with the agenda.

b. NHDOT's CAT Bus Service Study update

Paige reported that no new progress has been made on this at this time, but the plan will move forward when time allows.

c. CAT Vehicle Replacement Program

Paige reported that vehicle #122 has returned to service after being out for several months. She also reported that CAPBM is now in possession of a cut-away vehicle that was transferred to them from the COAST transit system over in Dover. This vehicle once fully equipped will be deployed on the new Concord to Laconia Connector (CLC) service.

d. New Service Model – Micro Transit

Paige reported that no new progress has been made in this area.

7. Other Discussions

a. Service Expansion- Inter-City Route Concord to Laconia

Paige reported that two drivers have been hired for the route and that the plan is to launch a "soft opening" on January 15th.

b. Alternative to using Storrs Street when Main Street is shut down.

Paige will contact the Parking Committee to begin the conversation on this.

c. City of Concord support for State operating match for Transit.

Paige reported that she received a letter of support signed by the City Manager which was submitted as part of the advocacy push for this addition to the state budget. The advocacy effort was successful in getting some of the operating match requested included in the budget and CAPBM-CAT will benefit from this increased operating revenue.

8. New Business

- a. Councilor Todd requested that an agenda item be added to the May meeting regarding bus access to the new Penacook Library.

9. Upcoming Meetings

The Subcommittee agreed to set the next meeting for May 7, 2024 (first Tuesday of the month) at 12:00pm.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. (Motion – Todd; Second –Ziegra; Unanimous)