

**CITY OF CONCORD
TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF AUGUST 22, 2024**

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 6:00 pm on August 22, 2024, in the Second Floor Conference Room at Concord City Hall, 41 Green Street.

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

Members Absent: Craig Tufts

Guests: Nancy and David Nysten

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. Introductions

3. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes –June 27, 2024

On a motion made by Todd, seconded by Fox, the meeting minutes of June 27, 2024 were approved as amended by unanimous consent.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. New Business

a. *Request to examine bus stop and crosswalk locations on Fisherville Road near Dollar General.*

Nancy and David Nysten, 183 Fisherville Road, attended the meeting to speak on their concerns. They described a safety concern with folks who exit the CAT bus at the stop on the east side of the roadway and cross Fisherville Road in the absence of a crosswalk. They added that because the crosswalk is south of the bus stop, it is rarely used. They also voiced concerns with the lack of lighting in the area and the speed at which vehicles travel along this segment of Fisherville Road particularly between the hours of 3-4 pm and 6-8 pm.

Nancy also shared her concerns for bikes, especially e-bikes, scooters, etc. riding on sidewalks in the area, creating safety concerns for pedestrians using

the sidewalks. She noted the lack of “wrong way” bike signage along this segment of roadway.

The Committee discussed the concerns and viewed plans for the proposed private developments at 150 and 169 Fisherville Road. Hill described the plans to create bus pull offs in each direction. The bus stop on the east side is proposed to move south of the crosswalk with the development plan, which the Committee agreed will likely help to address the safety concerns.

The Committee discussed moving the bus stop now, since it will be in the lane in either location, to allow the bus to stop before the crosswalk. Engineering will draft a report to Council to request to have the bus stop moved and the street light added. The bus pull offs will be constructed as the private development projects move forward with construction.

The Committee then discussed pedestrian safety and traffic calming, including inquiring if the developer could construct a grass strip on the east side, Hill mentioned that the plans were already approved. The Committee also discussed more robust traffic calming in the area and the potential to narrow lanes and possibly add another crosswalk in the future, when the roadway is re-paved.

6. **Old Business**

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

The working group presented a revised draft document for discussion. The Committee reviewed the document and provided comments for the working group to consider. Hill asked committee members to send her any additional comments and she will forward all comments to the working group for consideration.

The Committee would like to send the completed draft to City Management, Staff, and other committees to review.

7. **Consent Reports**

a. *Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes*

i. TPAC-BP – May 6, 2024

ii. TPAC-PT – None

b. *TPAC-BP referral to recommend that the City refresh bike lane symbols and sharrows throughout the City.*

The Committee discussed this referral. Hill mentioned that General Services has completed a little over 40% of the crosswalks, stop bars, arrows and onlys and it is almost September. She mentioned that there was a request in the FY25 budget for two new sign crew members but they were not approved. The

Committee discussed a need for additional Staff to complete this critical work each year. The Committee discussed including in their annual CIP review report a recommendation for Council to support the additional sign crew positions.

There was also discussion about prioritizing the bike symbols since the season ends early and they are typically faded again come spring time. There was a question raised but potential grant opportunities. There was also a brief discussion about whether to move the Main Street sharrows to the center of the lane so they are no longer in the wheel paths and may last longer. Also, since the parking downtown varies between angled and parallel.

8. City Council Meeting Update

Todd shared that Council referred a resident's concerns on Broken Ground Drive to TOC. He also mentioned that the N Main Street bus stop public hearing is scheduled for September 9th. It was confirmed that Council accepted the Birch Street and Iron Works Road reports by consent. Hill to send reports to the Committee.

9. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Mayor

None.

10. Status Report on Subcommittees

a. Public Transportation Subcommittee (TPAC-PT)

Paige mentioned that CAT ridership is reaching numbers not seen since 2014. FY24 numbers for fixed route and demand response increased by approximately 8,000 rides, that's an 8% increase and about 107,000 rides. She related this increase to their rebranding effort and the fare-free offering as well as other initiatives. The Committee briefly discussed bicycle storage on busses and that it costs approximately \$4,000 to retrofit a larger one to accommodate more bicycles.

b. Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee (TPAC-BP)

Bakos mentioned that the Subcommittee discussed the bike symbols and potential projects to consider for TAP, but determined there weren't many projects that seemed competitive enough at this time that would fit within the funding limits.

c. Traffic Operations Committee (TOC)

Hill will circulate the TOC agendas next meeting but informed the Committee that they are posted online if folks are interested in viewing them.

11. Project Updates (Staff)

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

Hill shared that the Chenell drive sidewalk is completed. She mentioned that the Airport Road sidewalk continues to move forward as final design plans are now complete.

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 is nearing completion and a ribbon cutting will likely take place early Fall.

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, hopefully in the Fall.

11. Other Discussion Items

None.

12. Adjourn

On a motion made by Todd, seconded by Bakos, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM by unanimous consent.

13. Upcoming Meeting Dates

September 26, 2024

October 24, 2024