

CITY OF CONCORD
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
of the
TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2024

The Public Transportation subcommittee of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 12:00 pm, on May 7, 2024 in the Second Floor Budget Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street.

Attendees: Terri Paige, Chair
Councilor Brent Todd
Craig Tufts

Absent: James Ziegra

Staff: Karen Hill, Transportation Engineer; Alec Bass, Senior Planner

Guests Present: Vincent Pagano, CNHRPC

1. Call to Order

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

2. Introduction

3. Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2024

On a motion made by Todd, seconded by Paige the minutes from January 9, 2024 were approved. All in favor.

4. Referrals – None

The Subcommittee requested to send a referral to TPAC to appoint Vincent Pagano, CNHRPC, as a member of TPAC Public Transportation Subcommittee.

5. Public Comment – None

6. Updates/Old Business

a. CAT Quick Report

Paige asked the Subcommittee about which information they would like to see in the Quick Reports moving forward as she felt that specific information was not being discussed. Todd shared that the Subcommittee was originally established to create a working relation with CAT and to educate the public and City Council and garner support and justify funding for the public service. He mentioned that the data in the Quick Reports assists with these efforts. It was also discussed, the complications and challenges of operating and funding the services and that it is not necessarily easy to add services or routes.

Paige shared that the budget for CAT is close to 1 million dollars now. She mentioned that CAT utilizes other funding sources in addition the funding received by the City of Concord. Todd mentioned that the City's budget hearings are coming up and encouraged Paige to attend to testify in support of the requested CAT funding.

b. CAT Vehicle Replacement Program

i. Transfer of vehicle from COAST

Paige shared a 2015 Ford bus was received, which did need some minor work to make it road worthy and only had 20,000 miles on it. Paige is hoping to have it on the road in early summer.

ii. Ongoing mechanical issues with all three passports

Paige shared that these are some of the older buses of the fleet and are currently demanding significant amount of funds and resources for maintenance and repairs. The passports are the largest buses of the fleet. She mentioned that she will be looking to set up a replacement plan in the near future.

Paige shared they continue to look into alternative fuels for the fleet. Currently, an electric fleet would require a larger fleet, as the batteries per bus cannot last the length of a day and that does not appear viable. She shared that they are also looking at a propane fleet to see if that is a better option and could assist in meeting Concord's energy goals.

c. New Service Model- Micro Transit

Paige shared they continue to look into micro transit models. In other communities they have seen routes converting back to a traditional model. They will continue to consider the options, but it may not be a model which works well in Concord, as not rural or urban enough to make it work and justify the additional costs and programming. Paige added that the State continues to look into a state-wide model.

7. Other Discussions

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

Paige shared that they still have not done their official launch and continue to run after a soft opening. They are currently working on coordinating directly with employers to increase participation.

Paige shared the FY 24 By Route Data Chart, showing the small, but growing usage since the January launch.

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

Paige shared she still needs to reach out to the City Parking Committee about alternative bus stop locations when Main Street is shut down.

Todd asked Paige to reach out to Tim Thompson, who is the staff representative for the Parking Committee, and will meet in May or July.

Hill shared that Paige should plan to provide a list of potential locations and information for review. Sections of N State Street has parking that is reserved for State Legislatures.

c. Todd asked for an update the CAT facility to be added as an “other discussion” topic

Paige shared that they looked at a few potential locations for a new facility. Of all the locations, two has potential, but the cost of one location exceeded the budget, while the other had more square-feet than needed which drove the cost above what they were looking for. For these reasons, CAT is currently looking into a new lease with the new owner of the facility they are currently located at. They are hoping to enter into a 3-year lease instead of a 5-year lease and in that time, will continue to look for a new location for their facility. She mentioned that it is tough to find a location with the correct amount of garage space and ideally it would be located along one of their bus routes.

8. New Business

a. Bus access to new Penacook Library

Todd shared that the Boys and Girls Club of NH and the new Penacook Community Center hopes to open at some point this summer. The Penacook Branch Library will also be moving to this location. There will be a lot of added activity in this area, and it is adjacent to the Rolfe Park and was curious if it warrants consideration for an additional stop.

The Subcommittee discussed that there is currently a bus stop on Route 3 between Stark and Bonney Streets. The Subcommittee reviewed the potential challenges about adding a stop at the Penacook Library location, due to restrictive one way streets, tighter residential roads, and taking a left onto Route 3 to get back out.

Paige indicated she will look at trip counts associated with the Route 3 at the current stop, and could look into adding the Library as a per request stop if they can find a way to access the location.

9. Upcoming Meetings

- a. September 10, 2024

10. Adjourn

On a motion made by Todd, seconded by Paige the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 pm. All in favor.

DRAFT