



CITY OF CONCORD

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MINUTES

Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

April 3, 2017 5:30 PM
2nd floor Conference Room
City Hall, 41 Green Street, Concord, NH

Members Present:

Craig Tufts (Co-Chair)
Ursula Maldonado (Co-Chair)
Dick Lemieux
Robert Baker
David Sky
John Stoll, Senior Planner
Jeffrey Warner (staff representative)

Members Not Present:

Karen Paddleford
Greg Bakos

Committee – review / accept minutes

The March minutes were reviewed. Revisions to the minutes regarding CIP and private development plan review were suggested. The minutes were accepted as amended.

Member Status

Sheila Zakre has stepped down from the TPAC-BP subcommittee. As chair of the Public Transit subcommittee, Sheila will focus her efforts there.

Pedestrian Master Plan Update

The Planning Board discussed the Master Plan (MP) at the March 15 meeting. Craig reported that the Board accepted the MP and will make it official at the next meeting. The MP will not be incorporated into the 2030 Master Plan but will remain as a standalone planning document. Craig will work with TPAC to get the Master Plan on the City Council agenda where he will make a similar presentation that was given to the Planning Board.

Demonstration Bike Lane Project

TPAC discussed the project at their last meeting. TPAC was supportive of the project, suggested running the project for as long as feasible, and stressed the need for outreach with the neighborhood and the National Night Out organizers. TPAC-BP/CNHBC will need to create graphics for the project, an estimate, and seek funding. The Central NH Bicycling Committee may be willing to fund a portion of the project but additional fund raising may be necessary. A meeting has been scheduled for April 5 to discuss the project and delegate tasks.

Detection of Bicyclists at Traffic Signals

Craig will reach out to General Services (GS) to discuss the concept of locating and marking the location of the bicycle detection zones. If GS is amenable to the project, TPAC-BP will work with the Traffic Signal Technician to locate the detection zones so that they can be marked.

The Big Bicycle Project at Kimball Jenkins

A meeting was held in March to discuss the project. The kick-off for the project will be held on May 6 to coincide with the Capital Arts Fest which is being coordinated by the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce. As part of the event, the Squonk Opera will perform Cycle Sonic at the State House Plaza at 11:30 and 2:30. Sculptures for the project will be complete by May 3 when they will be placed throughout the city. Other activities that are being considered include a parade and a movie night. The organizers are focusing on art and are not particularly interested in incorporating the demonstration project into their program. Robert is working on a closed street event and may try to coordinate with the Chamber.

CNHBC Update:

CNHBC held Bikes of March at Red River Theaters on March 22. David reported that the event was well received and attended. David expressed his appreciation for the Police Department's participation and noted the lack of participation by TPAC, the City's Engineering Department, and City Council. With the popularity of the event, Dick questioned if CNHBC should consider offering the movie series annually instead of every 18 months (Bikes of March and Biketober Fest) until the interest wanes. Lack of volunteers was cited as a hurdle to offering the event at a more frequent interval. Some commented that the 18 month cycle results in confusion as to when the event is held. Dick indicated that there is little time for networking before or after the event. It was also noted that Ben from the Police Department, who is part of the bike patrol, will be a good contact for the future.

CIP and Private Development Update/Plan Review

Loudon Road: It was requested that the Loudon Road project be added to the agenda for May for discussion.

Concord Homeless Resource Center: David reported that the Resource Center is working the Central NH Bicycling Coalition (CNHBC) to establish a bike share program for their clients. The design plans do not identify existing or proposed bicycle parking. David reported that, based on CNHBC discussions with the Resource Center, parking may already exist. Engineering has asked that bicycle parking be added to the design.

Concord Orthopedics parking expansion: Jeff presented the proposed expansion of the parking. Bicycle parking or pedestrian improvements are not included in the design. While many of the patients may not be able to arrive by bicycle, employees and others may. John will request bicycle parking be added to the design.

Rezoning along Pleasant Street: The committee discussed the application to rezone a portion of Pleasant Street from to Medium Density Residential District (RM) to Institutional District (IS). The rezone has the potential to change the character of the area with office buildings and increased traffic. If the area is rezoned, an eye should be kept on the infrastructure to ensure all users are accommodated.

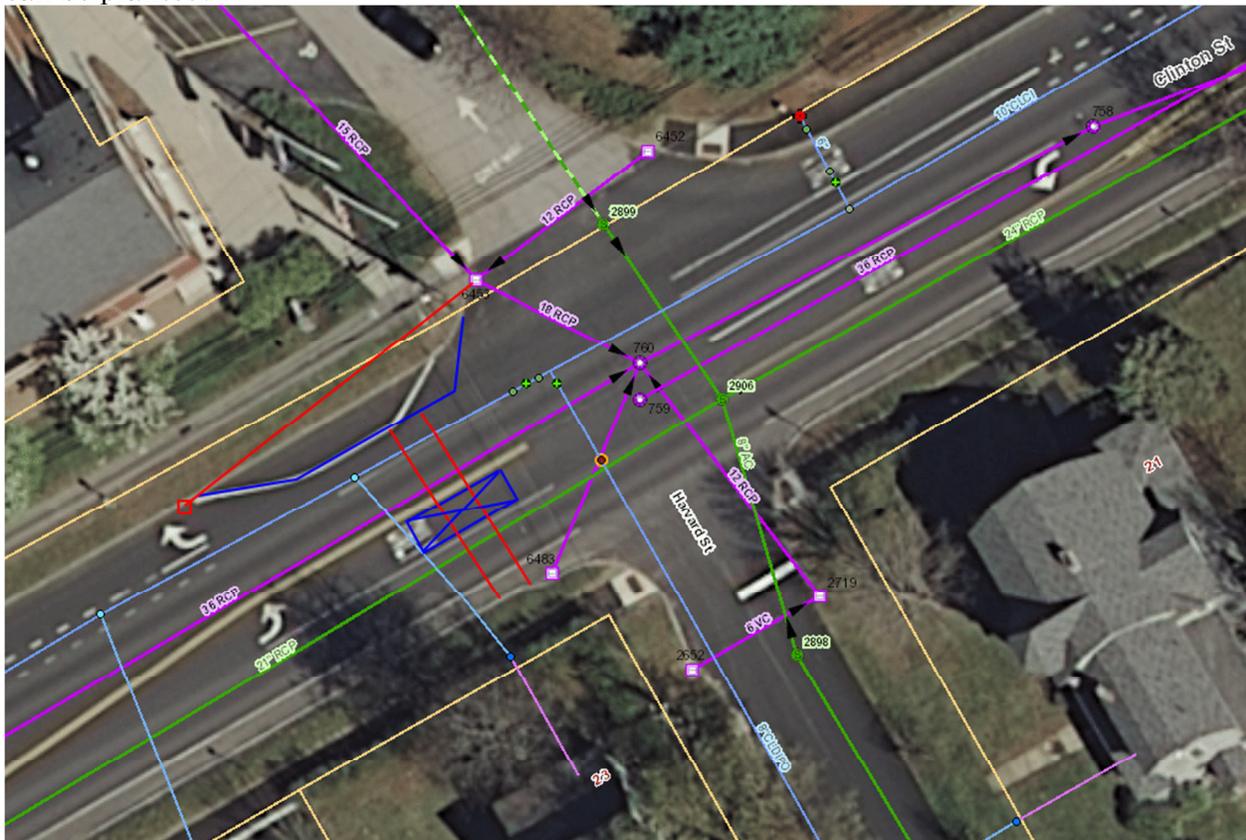
Pan Am Railroad Corridor Abandonment

Craig reported that Pan Am is in the process of abandoning the rail corridor from Horseshoe Pond to Boscawen. The Friends of the Northern Rail Trail (FNRT) is working with Boscawen and will be sending a letter to NHDOT recommending that the NHDOT

take ownership of the corridor and make it available for a shared use trial. The committee recommends that the city work with FNRT, the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail, and the Town of Boscawen and submit a joint letter to NHDOT for the above stated purpose.

Clinton Street Crosswalk

TOC referred a request for a crosswalk at the Clinton Street / Harvard Street intersection to TPAC-BP for consideration. The committee discussed the merits and faults of a crosswalk at the location. While there may be a “double threat” at the location, it only occurs when a vehicle is located in one of the turn lanes, which appear to be low volume turn lanes. The committee does not recommend placing a crosswalk at the location without complementary infrastructure. Committee members have observed: People have been observed crossing Clinton Street at this location, that the gravel path from the sidewalk along the north side of Clinton Street to the State Office Park South was cleared of snow, the distance from adjacent crosswalks is significant and not reasonable for people who wish to cross the street, and the driveway opposite Princeton Street (Averill Drive, private) does not include any pedestrian accommodation. The committee suggested adding a crosswalk to the west of Harvard Street with the following conditions. 1) Remove the eastbound left turn lane into the courthouse. Visitors to the courthouse from the west can access the site via Averill Dr. 2) Construct a bump out along the north side of Clinton Street west of the court house entrance. The bump out will also help to define the beginning and of the westbound right turn lanes. 3) a catch basin may be necessary to the west of the bump out. 4) The addition of a bump out will also provide a large enough area where sustainable street trees can be planted.



Vulnerable User Legislation

David suggested that the city support/create vulnerable user ordinance possibly similar to what Washington D.C. recently enacted which “removes the doctrine of contributory negligence that involve non motor vehicle users of the roads.” In 2014, a statewide bill failed to receive adequate votes for implementation. While support for a statewide bill should continue, David suggested that Concord pursue its own ordinance. The committee was unsure if the city has the legal authority to create such an ordinance. David will compile data on the subject and distribute it to the committee for future discussion.