

**CITY OF CONCORD**  
**TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF June 25, 2020**

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 6:00 p.m., on June 25, 2020.

*Due to the Covid-19/Coronavirus Pandemic and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee was authorized to meet electronically. The City of Concord utilized the WebEx platform for this electronic meeting. There was no physical location to observe and listen to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to Governor Sununu's emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04.*

*All members of the Committee had the ability to communicate during this meeting through the WebEx platform, and the public had access to listen and participate in this meeting as necessary.*

Members Present: Dick Lemieux, Chair  
Mayor Jim Bouley  
Councilor Brent Todd  
Councilor Meredith Hatfield  
Greg Bakos  
Ursula Maldonado  
Terri Paige  
Rebecca McWilliams  
Craig Tufts

Members Absent:  
Councilor Rob Werner  
Ryan Buchanan  
Sheila Zakre

City Staff Members:  
Dave Cedarholm, City Engineer  
Karen Hill, Transportation Engineer  
Sam Durfee, Senior Planner  
Ashley Hamilton, Fiscal Supervisor

Guests Present:  
Councilor Erle Pierce  
Leon LaFreniere, Concord resident

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the February 27, 2020 meeting were approved (Motion - Councilor Todd; Second – Mayor Bouley; Unanimous).

**3. Public Comments**

No public comments were presented.

**4. New Business**

No new business was discussed.

## 5. Old Business

TPAC members reviewed and briefly discussed the drafted Council Report in response to Mayor Bouley's TPAC discussion on October 24th, 2019. Mayor Bouley commented that the report might be good to have on file if needed in the future, but may not be needed at this time since the State of NH has tabled most of the referenced projects due to COVID-19. TPAC members voted to table the report (Motion - Councilor Todd; Second – Terri Paige; Unanimous).

## 6. Consent Reports

No Subcommittees meeting minutes were reviewed or accepted at this meeting.

## 7. City Council Meeting Update

- a. Councilor Todd stated that several items discussed at the City Councilor meetings were on the TPAC agenda and would be discussed during the meeting.
- b. Dave Cedarholm stated that Karen Hill's title was changed from Traffic Engineer to Transportation Engineer in March. TPAC members extended unanimous congratulations.
- c. City Council voted to not pursue a sidewalk project along Borough Road to coincide with the paving project.

## 8. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

- a. **Status of intersection improvements for Centre/ Washington Street intersection.** – Hill stated that Engineering laid out the proposed improvements at the intersection for the school bus and fire truck tests. The plans were revised to better accommodate the turning radii. Further action has been tabled due to COVID-19. The next step would be to hold a public meeting
- b. **Referral from City Council regarding communication from resident in support of expanding the Borough Road sidewalk** – Councilor Todd stated that previous discussions surrounding expanding the sidewalk on Borough Road caused disagreements with the neighbors as to which side of the road it should be built on. He stated that the next step is to meet with the residents to form a general consensus on future activity. Resident concerns about increased speeds and traffic were passed on to Councilor Pierce. He also proposed that a more detailed study for the Borough Road corridor might be needed, but recognized it may be on the back burner due to COVID-19 and suggested that this topic be sent back to TPAC for review in the overall sidewalk priority list.

Councilor Hatfield commented that she would like to see City Council reconsider and revisit this topic sooner than the five year plan.

Cedarholm commented that what City Council actually tabled was having Engineering put together a conceptual design. He stated that some sidewalk installation funds were put in escrow almost 20 years ago, but cannot be used for design, only construction, and is not enough to cover current day construction costs.

Sam Durfee said that a TPAC Bike and Pedestrian Subcommittee initiative is to put together a priority sidewalk list that will be reported back to TPAC for further review and consideration.

Hill stated that members of TOC discussed this topic and that Engineering staff will be setting up counters for speeds and traffic on Borough Road. She noted that Bog Road was closed for construction and may have led to increased traffic on Borough Road. Hill also mentioned that the Police Department's speed trailer has been fixed but noted that it doesn't collect any data.

Mayor Bouley thanked Sam Durfee for working on the sidewalk priority list and commented on how helpful it will be as a guidance document in the future.

- c. **Referral from Councilor Pierce regarding request for a crosswalk at the intersection of Horse Hill/Carter Hill/Bog/River Road intersection** – Concord Resident, Leon LaFreniere, attended the TPAC meeting to discuss his concerns at the intersection. Primary concerns include increased activity in the area, increased vehicle traffic, increased pedestrian and cyclist traffic, and increased speeds. Mr. LaFreniere noted that he

believed Concord Police Department does well at monitoring the area but felt there were not enough resources available to improve safety. He agreed that developing a crosswalk policy is helpful but he is concerned that the traffic and pedestrian volumes would not necessarily warrant one and that his concerns are more safety-related.

Hill commented that this request would be similar to the Mooreland Ave request in that it is a non-standard request of a crosswalk that would not connect to sidewalks on both sides. She noted that it would not be ADA compliant and could cause more pedestrian harm due to the speeds and geometry of the intersection. She stated that more research is needed and it may lead to a larger project scope.

Cedarholm commented that it is a four way intersection and a study may result in the need for a four way stop which could improve the safety of the intersection and the pedestrian crossings.

Councilor Erle Pierce mentioned that the rail trail will continue to increase pedestrian traffic. Dick Lemieux added that bicycle traffic will continue to increase as well.

Councilor Todd thanked Leon for presenting his concerns and suggested that Councilor Kretovic be included on all correspondence on this topic as the intersection borders her ward as well.

Cedarholm agreed that a technical review can be done, but said it would likely be on hold due to COVID-19 impacting normal traffic conditions.

Mayor Bouley commented that a four way stop sounded like the end result and asked what was preventing it from implementation.

Cedarholm said Engineering could get counters out there as soon as possible and would get the results on the TOC agenda for review before putting it to Council.

- d. Status of resident request for solar-powered radar feedback sign on Hoit Road** – Hill reported that this issue was thoroughly discussed at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> TOC meeting. TOC members did not endorse or support the sign installation. TOC said these types of signs increase maintenance costs, have limited effectiveness in reducing speeds, and they did not want to set a precedent for these signs throughout the City without having a formal policy in place.

John Thomas agreed to increase Police patrolling efforts.

Hill noted that if these signs were added TPAC would need to add a policy as a guide for future requests.

Mayor Bouley and Lemieux both agreed that this signage might not be the solution for increased speeds and traffic, but recognized that this is a problem corridor and other solutions need to be considered for safety improvements.

Cedarholm suggested that TPAC consider adopting a policy upfront for installation guidelines as this signage is currently limited to school zones. Lemieux commented that Engineering staff should draft the policy for TPAC members to review and make recommendations to council.

## **9. Status Report on Subcommittees**

### **a. Traffic Operations Committee (TOC)**

Hill reported that she is working on contacting CVS & Burger King to discuss the median island installation.

TOC members discussed increasing speeds and safety concerns on South Street.

Hill commented that seems to be a lot of recent concerns being raised by residents about speed and safety on the City's collector streets and may require a broader review or traffic calming initiative.

She noted that General Services will be improving signage on Knight Street to address the issue of vehicles traveling the wrong way on a one-way street.

Mayor Bouley mentioned that he had a referral for Pembroke Road that he would pass on to Engineering.

Councilor Hatfield requested to have Franklin Street added to the traffic calming list. She agreed to send an email request and would plan to attend a TOC meeting.

**b. Public Transportation Subcommittee (TPAC-PT)**

Terri Paige stated that there have been no meetings due to COVID-19. She reported that bus services have been ongoing through COVID-19, but noted that ridership did drop on all routes. She gave kudos to General Services for helping stock her with sanitary supplies and PPE equipment and for being an amazing partner through the pandemic. She noted that they had a significant bus accident that impacted service capacity and availability, but that they are managing. COVID-19 has led to a significant loss in revenue but Paige commented that the Cares Act funding has helped. A TPAC - Public Transportation Subcommittee is expected to be held in July.

**c. Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee (TPAC-BP)**

Craig Tufts noted that an initial sidewalk priority list was put together by Hill using various master plans and that the TPAC Bike and Pedestrian Subcommittee will be assisting in sorting and ranking the priority list in the future. An ongoing effort with the paving program is to stripe a minimum of 10 foot travel lanes in order to create wider shoulders where space is available. Future bike demonstrations are being considered and a bike swap event is in the works.

**10. Staff Updates**

**a. Storrs Street Extension (CIP 18)**

Cedarholm noted that there was nothing to report. The project is a CIP asterisk project, which means funding needs to be approved by Council. There is a proposal to pay for the design with TIF money pending City Council approval.

**b. Whitney Road/Hoit Road Intersection (CIP30)**

Cedarholm reported that the City is under contract with VHB to complete a 10% design of a 2-lane roundabout. NHDOT met in February after reviewing the traffic study and provided comments supporting the roundabout design. They recommended I-93 southbound on ramp modifications to provide better separation from the intersection, but they did not require modifications to the Boscawen roundabout. VHB is working on a 2D roadway and intersection design to be combined with the overall site plan that the developer will bring to Planning Board in August. A 30% and 100% design request will be on the July City Council agenda for funding approval. Possible winter 2021 construction is anticipated. Hannah Dustin Drive safety considerations and improvements are also being considered in the design.

Lemieux noted that his hope for the project and design is to keep pedestrian accommodations and accessibility in consideration at the roundabout. Concord is pedestrian and bicycle friendly and he would like to keep it that way.

**c. Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP543)**

Terrill Park project is in full construction and significant progress is being made.

**d. Langley Parkway Phase 3 (CIP40)**

No items were discussed.

**e. Loudon Road Bridge (CIP 588)**

Cedarholm noted that HDR is making significant progress on the Engineering study and design. A presentation for TPAC members is anticipated for the July meeting.

**f. I-93 Bow-Concord / Storrs Street Extension North**

This issue is on hold due to NHDOT's budget.

**11. Other Discussion Items**

- a. Councilor Hatfield requested an update on the Storrs Street zoning for the Starbucks drive thru request. Sam Durfee summarized the petitioner's request which consisted of allowing drive-through facilities in the Opportunity Corridor Performance (OCP) District and reducing the required number of stacking spaces. Staff has written a report and submitted it to the Planning Board and City Council detailing the request's inconsistency with the City Master Plans and economic development impacts. Staff has also drafted an ordinance amendment that would permit drive-through facilities in the OCP District and provide a conditional use permit process for reducing stacking spaces. The Planning Board has voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the amendment.
- b. Councilor Todd mentioned his support of re-implementing the Traffic Calming Subcommittee to evaluate overall City speed limits and potential reductions. Councilor Hatfield was in support of this and requested to be on the Committee. Hill was also in support of the Committee and said it would be the best place to look into corridor improvements. She agreed to get Rob Mack's maps and notes and reinvigorate the efforts.

Tufts commented that a City-wide/culture-wide approach was needed to lower speeds.

Lemieux said TPAC had the authority to form a subcommittee, noting it was preferred to have a TPAC member chair it. Lemieux tasked TPAC members to consider their participation and commitment level for formation at the next meeting.

## **12. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 8:15 p.m.