

CITY OF CONCORD

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2020**

The Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) met at 6:00 p.m. on October 22nd, 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 Meredith Hatfield
Councilor Brent Todd
Councilor Rob Werner (left the meeting early)
Gregory Bakos
Ursula Maldonado
Rebecca McWilliams
Terri Paige
Craig Tufts

Members Absent: None

City Staff Members: David Cedarholm, City Engineer
Sam Durfee, Senior Planner
Todd Welch, Project Manager

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes (addressed immediately after item 4a)

The minutes of the August 27, 2020 meeting were approved as amended (Motion – Brent Todd; Second – Terri Paige; Unanimous). Amendments included: Item 4a to eliminate the last sentence. Item 9b, change wording regarding Boyd Smith, he is a volunteer for the Concord Lake Sunapee Trail. All members in attendance voted on amendments, Councilor Werner had already left meeting.

3. Public Comment

No public comments.

4. New Business

a. McFarland Johnson and NHDOT presentation on Exit 2 (I-89/Clinton Street) project alternatives

Presenters: NHDOT: Tobey Reynolds and Tony King. McFarland Johnson: Brian Coburn, Steve Ireland and Scott Lister.

Tobey Reynolds: The project is currently programmed for production in the summer of 2023. The presentation is based on models of existing conditions based on simulations provided by McFarland Johnson. NHDOT plans to schedule a public information meeting in December 2020.

Steve Ireland: Presented the Concept Development Process including the pros and cons of North Bound (NB) Off Ramp Widening, Signalized Existing Lanes Concept, Single Lane Roundabout Concept, Expanded Signals Concept, Hybrid Roundabouts Concept and NB On/Off Ramp Hybrid Roundabout Concept. Discussed affect on bicycles and pedestrians, as well as the top two preferred alternatives.

McWilliams enquired about a snowmobile trail that crosses at the bridge. Councilor Hatfield shared concerns about a signal not being respected by drivers and the need to slow down the speed of the traffic. Paige expressed concerns about a roundabout that confines drivers to a lane that they can not depart from. Lemieux requested that cyclists be given additional consideration.

b. Hoit-Whitney Intersection Improvements

Cedarholm provided an update on the Hoit-Whitney Intersection Improvements project including the current plan of the proposed hybrid 2 lane roundabout including descriptions of the bicycle and pedestrian accomodations. Bakos expanded on the various NHDOT requirements since the majority of this project involves improvements to the State right-of-way (ROW) including details regarding the proposed pedestrian hybrid beacon required for the crosswalk across Route 4. The point about the NHDOT's requirement for the City to agree to maintain the proposed sidewalks within the State ROW was discussed. Mayor Bouley expressed concern about the City agreeing to maintaining the sidewalks within the State ROW and questioned who maintains the current sidewalks on Route 4 in Concord. Cedarholm responded and said the existing sidewalk on Route 4 currently receives no maintenance because it was installed prior to NHDOT establishing their policy requiring maintenance agreements if sidewalks are proposed within the State ROW.

5. Old Business

a. TPAC members previously agreed to table the item to finalize TPAC's Council Report in response to Mayor Bouley's TPAC discussion on October 24th, 2019.

b. Formation of Traffic Calming Subcommittee (Tabled).

6. Consent Reports

- a. Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes
 - i. TPAC-BP June 2, 2020 (Tabled).
 - ii. TPAC-PT - none.

7. City Council Meeting Update

Councilor Todd summarized the October 13, 2020 City Council meeting including appropriating funds the design and permitting of next phase of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail; a report presented by Cedarholm regarding the Loudon Road bridge; \$64,000 appropriation for CIP78 and the resident cost sharing contribution; the Council discussed Whitney road design.

8. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

a. Update on the Horse Hill/Carter Hill/Bog/River Roads intersection study

Cedarholm discussed a memo, prepared by Karen Hill, regarding a proposed four-way stop at the Horse Hill/Carter Hill/Bog/River Road intersection, which currently only has stop signs fro Carter Hill and River Roads. Although, the traffic volumes don't appear to warrant making it a 4-way stop, the awkward geometry of the

intersection and the railing on the Horse Hill Road Bridge obscuring the sight distance forces vehicles to dangerously creep into the intersection to gain better visibility. The 4-way stop would solve this issue and which is why Cedarholm is supportive of it.

b. Discussion on Audible Pedestrian Signals along Pleasant Street

Cedarholm discussed a memo, prepared by Karen Hill, regarding a project that could be incorporated into a CIP for next year retrofitting audible pedestrian signals at the Pleasant Street intersections of South/Green Streets, State Street, and Storrs Street. Mayor Bouley inquired about any possible ADA requirements. Bakos confirmed that they are only required for new signals, and there is no requirement for retrofitting of existing signals.

9. Status Report on Subcommittees

a. Traffic Operations Committee (TOC)

Cedarholm did not propose discussion as there was nothing new to report.

b. Public Transportation Subcommittee (TPAC-PT)

Paige: Discussed relocating the bus stop on North Main Street that may be moved further south near Ferry Street. They are currently working with Engineering on this as well as the consideration of relocating a bus stop on Fort Eddy Road near Market Basket. The CAT Mobility Manager applied for and received a grant for new and upgrade of equipment on the buses, which includes on-board monitors to inform the riders and provide a new advertising medium. She has taken advantage of grant funds to be used for garage upgrades. All bus shelters have been washed again and they are trying to repair some damaged shelters.

c. Bicycle/Pedestrian Subcommittee (TPAC-BP)

Tufts: The subcommittee is following proposed development on Storrs and Pleasant streets, and finalizing the list of future sidewalk improvements which includes a ranking based on a prioritization criteria.

10. Staff Updates

a. Storrs Street Extension (CIP 18)

Cedarholm: Nothing to report.

b. Whitney Road/Hoit Road Intersection (CIP30)

This item was previously discussed in item 4b.

c. Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP 543)

Chairman Lemieux shared that the 'Friends of the Trail' are working with the Parks and Recreation Director for a \$250,000 Federal grant to be equally matched with private funds; the application is due in one week.

d. Langley Parkway Phase 3 (CIP 40)

Cedarholm: Nothing to report.

e. Loudon Road Bridge (CIP 588)

This item was previously discussed in item 7.

f. I-93 Bow-Concord

No discussion.

11. Other Discussion Items

Mayor Bouley requested public feedback for the I-89 project, and he requested in the future to have the guest presenter's materials provided in advance of the meeting as this evening's materials were not legible online.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:18 p.m. (Motion – Brent Todd; Second – Terri Paige).