

**City of Concord
Transportation Policy Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 28, 2016 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm
City Hall Council Chambers

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Dick Lemieux called the meeting to order. Those in attendance included:

Committee Members Present:

Dick Lemieux (At-Large - Chair)
Jennifer Kretovic (Council Representative)
Craig Tufts, (Bicycling Community)
Sheila Zakre (At-Large)
Ursula Maldonado (At-Large)
Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer (City Manager's Designee)

Committee Members Not Present:

Brent Todd (Council Representative)
Rob Werner (Council Representative)
Tom Irwin (At-Large)
Jim Sudak (Public Transportation Representative)

Staff, Visitors and Guests Present:

Ed Roberge, City Engineer

2. Approval of January 28, 2016 meeting minutes

The January 28, 2016 minutes were approved as submitted (Motion-Tufts; Second-Maldonado; Unanimous).

3. Presentations

None.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. New business

None.

6. Old Business

None

7. Consent Reports

a. Acceptance of Subcommittee Minutes (Bicycle/Pedestrian, Public Transportation and Traffic Operations)

The following subcommittee reports were accepted by unanimous consent: Bicycle/Pedestrian - January 4, February 1 and March 7, 2016; Public Transportation - December 15, 2015; and Traffic Operations - January 19, February 16 and April 19, 2016.

8. City Council Meeting Update

Ed Roberge reported that at its April 11, 2016 meeting, City Council appropriated about \$2M to extend placement of utilities underground on S. Main Street southward to Thompson Street. Council also accepted a project status report on the Mountain/Shawmut/East Side/Exit 16 Roundabout project (CIP 24).

9. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

a. Referral by the Chair to discuss the status of the sections of N. and S. Main Street immediately north and south of the Downtown Complete Streets Project

Ed Roberge reported that the southern section of S. Main Street (Concord Street to Storrs Street) was included in the proposed FY17 budget under the Main Street project CIP460. If approved by Council in June, construction is anticipated later this year in conjunction with the overall work on S. Main Street. Further work on the northern section of N. Main Street (Centre Street to Storrs Street) would be deferred pending results of two ongoing projects: the redevelopment of the courthouse off Pitman and Court streets which may close off Pitman Street; and the Storrs Street North Extension study (CIP 18, discussed in Item 12, below) which will address potential changes to the N. Main/Storrs intersection.

b. Referral from Engineering to discuss speed limits city-wide (Engineering: 11/19/15)

Not discussed.

10. Status report on subcommittees

a. Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee, Craig Tufts

Craig Tufts reported that the proposed downtown bike-lane demonstration project was postponed to next year in order to better address questions and concerns voiced by City Council on this year's request. Work continues on the pedestrian master plan. A vision/goals statement has been drafted and considers walking safety, accessibility and pleasantness. A draft of the study is anticipated this Friday and will include a focus on liveability.

b. Public Transit Committee, Sheila Zakre

The chair noted that Tom Irwin's term on TPAC expires this month. As such, Sheila Zakre agreed to act as chair the Public Transit Committee.

Rob Mack reported that TPAC-PT met in March and considered a request for better snow maintenance at bus stops. Tom Irwin drafted recommendations for further TPAC-PT consideration. CAT and NHDOT continue to work on a bid document for the new bus acquisition. The findings of CNHRPC's Boarding and Alighting Study were also reviewed.

c. Traffic Operations Committee, Rob Mack

Rob Mack reported that TOC met on April 19, 2016 and discussed: an Asby Road resident complaint on some Route 106 traffic cutting onto Asby Road from a driveway at the back of Makris Restaurant; and a complaint from staff at the Blossom Hill Cemetery that some large delivery trucks are entering the cemetery in order to make a U-turn movement on N. State Street.

11. Staff Updates

a. **Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project – TIGER 2012 (CIP460)**

Ed Roberge reported that work on the northbound side of S. Main Street continues including burial of underground utilities. Sidewalk work will begin around May 9.

b. **US Route 3 North Improvements (CIP 35)**

Ed Roberge reported that the project is substantially complete except for the final pavement wearing course and some traffic signal upgrades which are expected to be completed shortly.

c. **Sewalls Falls Bridge Replacement Project (CIP 22)**

Ed Roberge reported that the existing bridge truss has been removed and that the west-side abutment is being poured this week. It is anticipated that the bridge will be opened to traffic around November 1, 2016. Drone photography of the old bridge as well as construction activity are available on the project website.

d. **Loudon Road Corridor Improvements (CIP 19)**

Ed Roberge reported that staff is in the process of following up on Council's January request to explore 4-lane alternatives to the proposed 3-lane conversion. Options include retaining the current 4-lane corridor and considering safety improvements limited to sidewalks, driveway consolidations and crosswalks. Staff has met once with NHDOT and was informed that continued use of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds for other than the 3-lane project would be predicated on NHDOT's data-driven analysis procedure of project costs versus safety benefits, an analysis that would be more difficult to attain by keeping the 4-lane configuration. Additional funding sources (roadway betterment funds) were also an option for consideration. Staff will be returning to NHDOT with prospective 4-lane options to get their opinion on fundability. Findings would be reported back to Council.

TPAC members discussed the project and reiterated very strong support for the planned 3-lane conversion. Concern was noted on a potential loss of the past vision and planning for the corridor in terms of safety needs and livability. Actions included funding the 2004 construction of Regional Drive to supplement the needs of increasing east-west traffic growth through the Heights.

e. **Mountain/Shawmut/East Side/Exit 16 Roundabout (CIP 24)**

Ed Roberge reported that the project design is underway, with engineering and historic resource studies under review by NHDOT. A public information meeting on the project was held in March, and a resident workgroup has been developed to provide feedback on the roundabout landscaping design. Design will continue through the spring with construction planned for late summer.

f. **Merrimack River Greenway Trail (CIP 543)**

Ed Roberge reported that design is underway by VHB.

g. **I-93 Bow-Concord (NHDOT)**

Ed Roberge noted that the NHDOT study team was still finalizing the regional traffic model. Information on possible corridor alternatives is not yet available.

12. Other Discussion Items

- a. Rob Mack noted that General Services was in the process of reconfiguring the skewed Old Loudon Road/Portsmouth Street intersection to a right-angle intersection in conjunction with the repaving of both streets this spring. The work here will be very similar to last year's realignment of the Washington/Borough/River intersection.
- b. Ed Roberge noted that Engineering Services is in the process of developing a planning study with one of its on-call consultants for a potential Storrs Street north extension to Commercial Street and I-393. The study will be done this year and will look at alternatives for the street extension, including potential coordination with the NHDOT's ongoing evaluation of alternatives for the I-93 Bow-Concord study. It was noted that this study will plan the new corridor connection to be complete-streets compatible which will enable a needed alternative route for non-motorized traffic movement between downtown and the Commercial Street area.
- c. Sheila Zakre noted that the NH Association for the Blind is holding a walk-a-thon on June 4 which will include an opportunity for sighted people to wear a blindfold and be taken on a walk of Main Street to experience challenges experienced by vision-impaired walkers.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at about 8:15 PM.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: May 26, 2016
 June 23, 2016
 July 28, 2016