

City of Concord
Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 26, 2012 - 6:00pm to 8:30pm
City Council Chambers

1. Call to Order/Introductions

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

Committee Members Present:

Dick Lemieux (Downtown - Chair)
Jennifer Kretovic (City Council)
Ursula Maldonado (At-Large)
Jim Sudak (Concord Area Transit) (Public Transit)
Alex Vogt (Pedestrian Community)
Brent Todd (Penacook)
Craig Tufts, (Bike Community)
Ed Roberge, City Engineer - Staff Representative

Committee Members Not Present:

Keith Nyhan, City Council
Rob Werner, City Council
Tom Irwin (North/West Concord)
Peter Rhodes (Bicycling Community)

Staff, Visitors and Guests Present:

Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer - Staff Representative

2. Approval of February 23, 2011 and March 22, 2012 meeting minutes

Dick Lemieux requested that members consider both meeting minutes at the same time. Ursula Maldonado noted a minor error with respect to a street name in the February meeting minutes. Following a brief discussion, Jennifer Kretovic made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, including the revision to the February meeting as discussed. The motion was seconded by Jim Sudak. The minutes of the February 23rd and March 22nd meetings were unanimously approved.

3. Presentations

There were no presentations at this meeting.

4. Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance at this meeting.

5. Consent Reports

a. Approval of Subcommittee Nominations

There were no subcommittee nominations to consider.

b. Approval of Subcommittee Minutes (Pedestrian, Bicycle, Public Transportation, Traffic Operations)

The Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes of the Public Transit and Traffic Operations Committees distributed with this agenda package.

6. TPAC Referrals from City Council, Staff and Chair

- a. Although not distributed with the original agenda package posting, Ed Roberge outlined a referral received from a Penacook Street resident requesting the City consider changes to the proposed North State Street/Rumford Street intersections that would allow for northbound bike access through the intersection. Following a brief discussion, the matter has been referred to the TPAC-Bike Committee for their review and comment.

7. Status report on subcommittees

a. Pedestrian Committee, Alex Vogt

Alex Vogt reported that the Pedestrian Committee did not meet in April and had no report update. The Pedestrian Committee is scheduled to meet on May 3rd and will combine the April and May agendas.

b. Bike Committee, Craig Tufts

Craig Tufts reported that the Bike Committee met on April 23rd and continued its efforts on identifying recreational bike routes to post on the City's and others web sites. The committee has developed several bike routes varying from 3 to 15 miles that can suit a number of riders.

Craig Tufts indicated that the Central NH Bike Coalition (CNHBC) was scheduled to install paint markings on downtown sidewalks but was rained out this past weekend. The group will try to paint the no biking on sidewalk messages on April 29th weather permitting.

c. Public Transit Committee, Jennifer Kretovic

Jennifer Kretovic reported that the Public Transit Committee met in April without a quorum and tabled action items. The CAT application before NHDOT remains pending a number of funding challenges.

The committee discussed new route refinements that are under review by CAT. Jim Sudak reported that the changes suggested are dramatic and once refined, will be review with the committee. The consultant reviewing the route design has suggested maintaining bus stops within parking lots if possible. Drivers have expressed concern with route timing and the length of routes. The committee is excited to review the route designs with an open mind to improve the system.

Jennifer Kretovic reported that CAT began installing the new bus stop signs with the schedule panel. Signs will be planned over the next few months as workload permits.

d. Traffic Operations Committee, Rob Mack

Rob Mack reported that the Traffic Operations Committee (TOC) met in April and discussed roundabout safety and operations. Staff has reviewed operations at both Liberty/Centre/Auburn and North State/Franklin. Staff coordinated with General Services and deployed a variable message board at the North State/Franklin roundabout to bring attention to proper vehicle yielding in the roundabout. Brent Todd noted that he drove through the North State/Franklin roundabout and the warning sign was highly visible and made a good impression.

Rob Mack noted that the TOC will continue to create motorist notices such as the message board in the roundabout to create a safer community.

8. Staff Updates

a. Penacook Village Charette, April 19, 2012

Ed Roberge noted that staff coordinated the 2nd design charette in Penacook Village in April. The session was well attended and it was thought that 50-60% of the attendees were different than the March session. Brent Todd noted that the session was well organized and feedback was abundant. Jennifer Kretovic noted that there was considerable discussion regarding a potential grocery store at the 30 Pines area table where folks expressed a desire for a store.

As the charette concluded, staff indicated that a report will be developed and reviewed with Penacook residents later in 2012.

b. US Route 3 – Phase 4b Public Meeting, April 24, 2012

Ed Roberge reported that a public meeting was hosted by staff on April 24th outlining the Phase 4b limits of the US Route 3 Corridor (North) Improvement Project. There were some 20 residents that attended and the project was well received. Staff outlined that the Phase 4a (Palm Street to Call Street) and the Phase 4b (Call Street to Penacook Street) improvements will be completed in the 2012 construction season. Work is expected to begin late May 2012 and continue through December.

c. McKee Square Report – Council Public Meeting, May 14, 2012

Ed Roberge and Rob Mack reported that a comprehensive traffic study was completed by staff and will be presented to City Council at a public hearing on May 14th. All members are encouraged to attend the public presentation/hearing.

d. Langley Parkway Project Update

Rob Mack indicated that staff followed up with VHB, the project consultant, regarding the multi-use path along the Langley Parkway corridor. The multi-use path will be integrated into the conceptual design layout plans for consideration by the public. Staff anticipates that presenting layout options to smaller neighborhoods throughout the fall 2012 prior to review by the public at a larger general public presentation meeting in late 2012.

e. Loudon Road Project Update

Rob Mack reported that NHDOT and FHWA has determined the Loudon Road Corridor safety improvement project as eligible for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds and will be scheduled in FY2014 work program. An extensive traffic model has been developed and is under review by staff. Staff anticipates reviewing the project with Height's business and resident leaders throughout the summer and expects to present the overall plan to the public in late 2012.

9. TPAC Policy Objectives/Programs/Initiatives

Although there were no specific policy items for discussion, Dick Lemieux inquired as to the status of the new City website development. Ed Roberge indicated that requests for proposals are being developed and solicitation, selection, and development of a new website is expected throughout 2012. Once a new website is in place, it is expected that Engineering staff will include a TPAC page. More discussion on this matter to follow.

10. Old Business

a. TPAC Accomplishments Report

No report given.

11. New business

a. Annual Crosswalk Painting

Alex Vogt inquired as to the schedule of repainting crosswalks throughout the City. Ed Roberge indicated that the work has been scheduled but with recent weather, the scheduled might have been delayed. Ed Roberge will follow-up with General Services.

b. CIP460 Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project (Rethinking Main Street)

Jennifer Kretovic reported that over the past several weeks, staff and downtown project supporters have met to discuss opportunities to improve exposure of the project for the pending TIGER grant application. The project team is looking at opportunities for NH's Senate delegation to meet with USDOT Secretary LaHood to stress the importance of the project to not only Concord but to NH. A similar plea for support by Governor Lynch is expected. These are part of several efforts to raise awareness and support for the downtown improvement project.

c. Upcoming TPAC Meeting Schedule

Ed Roberge noted that with the upcoming Council budget review schedule, the May TPAC meeting has been cancelled in the past. With that, TPAC concurred and cancelled the May 24th meeting. The next regular scheduled TPAC meeting in the June 28th meeting.

12. Adjourn

With no further items to discuss, Craig Tufts made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Kretovic. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned.