

City of Concord Transportation Advisory Committee Bicycling Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday August 6, 2012 – 6:00 Central NH Regional Planning Commission

Call to Order/Introductions

Committee Members Present:
Craig Tufts (chair)
Dick Lemieux
Greg Bakos
Jeff Warner (City staff representative)
Robert Baker

Committee Members Not Present: Tim Farmer Andy Baldwin

Guests/Friends of the Bicycle Committee:

TPAC Bicycle Committee - Review / Accept Minutes

Minutes from the July meeting were discussed and accepted by the committee.

Meeting Schedule

The date for the next meeting needs to be determined as the usual date falls on the Labor Day holiday.

Discussion and Action Items

TPAC-Bike Nominations/Membership

Robert Baker has been accepted as a member of the committee. Kevin Twombly's membership is pending Kevin's return from sabbatical.

North-South Bike Route: Reroute northbound using Rumford Street

Jeff reported that Engineering is awaiting design concepts from two consultants who are working on projects in the area for the city. At this point there isn't anything new to report.

Bike Routes in and around Concord

Craig and Jeff investigated the portion of the Tour of the Parks through the State Office Park South off of Pleasant and South Fruit Streets to ensure that the route is easy to follow and appears to be safe. A handful of cyclists travelling through the park, including a woman with two young girls, who were travelling from Pleasant Street to Fruit Street and onto Clinton Street. It was felt that due to the small size of the park, it was fairly easy to navigate and safe. The queue sheet will need to be detailed to address a couple of areas that may need clarification.

Jeff reported that the State is working on the design of a parking lot and driveway plan. The committee hopes this will make navigation more straight forward. A question was raised whether the State would allow the route to be marked through the campus. It was decided that we should progress further through the route development before we considered that alternative. The committee also

needs to work on producing on a map/queue sheet and getting it distributed/posted on the CNHBC website.

Boys and Girls Club Plan Review

Jeff presented the latest concept for the Boys and Girls Club. The plan includes an 8' wide shared use path along the east side of Bradley Street which leads to and from the park. The consultant still needs to work out the grading before we know if this option will proceed.

Main Street Reconstruction

The committee reviewed a number of plans that were created for the Rethinking Main Street project. Overall, it was felt that the design will not make Main Street an attractive place to ride, which it should be for a Bicycle Friendly Community. To accommodate bicyclist and on-street parking, lane widths should be 15' wide. To accomplish this, other options should be considered including:

- removing the left turn lane except at Centre, Pleasant and Storrs Street,
- placing angled parking down the center of the street, which would have the added benefit of leaving the store fronts visible to passersby, and
- utilizing parallel parking on one side or staggered along the street.

It was also noted that; parking spaces appear to be within 20' of crosswalks which does not comply with State RSA's, and that vehicles parked along the east side of the street near Pleasant and Depot Streets may have difficulty backing out of the parking space when vehicles are queued in the southbound left turn lanes.

Craig contacted Mayor Bouley to indicate that TPAC-B was interested in being part of the advisory committee for the project. The committee discussed ways to get the public involved in the public process. Ideas included letters to the Concord Monitor, a speaker series, organizing a cycling cash mob, and organizing a movie with a discussion after. The movie may be coordinated with the Green Living Series. Members were asked to see what they could find for ideas of films that would be appropriate given the subject.

Langley Parkway

The committee reviewed the current DRAFT concepts for Langley Parkway between Pleasant Street and North State Street. The concepts include signalized and roundabout intersections and a shared use path. The committee questioned why the path changes sides of the street at Auburn Street. It appears that it would make more sense to keep it on the southeast side of the street adjacent to where the hospital campus and most of the residential development exists. A short portion of shared use path could be constructed along the northwest side from Pond Place to Auburn Street if connections to those neighborhoods can be established. A hiking trail could be constructed along the northwest side to reestablish the existing trail system. The committee also felt that the alignment of the shared use path was too curvilinear and, while should remain separated from the parkway, should be straightened to some extent. Jeff will invite Rob Mack to the next meeting to discuss the project is more detail.

NH Route 132

NHDOT recently treated NH Route 132 (Mountain Road) with a 3/8" chip seal. The treatment has created a rough surface across the road which is uncomfortable to ride a bicycle on. Members of TPAC-B, CNHBC and the public have communicated their general displeasure of the surface with NHDOT. While the travelled way will likely smooth out to some degree through vehicle loading and plowing, the shoulders will not see the loading and compaction that the travelled way will. Cyclist will invariably ride to the left of the fog line where the pavement surface will be the smoothest creating an unsafe condition where alternatives exist. TPAC-B should continue to monitor the riding surface and continue the conversation with NHDOT next spring. NHDOT should be discouraged from using chip seal on bike routes as identified on the New Hampshire Regional Bicycle Maps.

At the request of the city, NHDOT reviewed the lane widths along the portion of the road being resurfaced and agree to stripe 10' to 10.5' lanes. This should leave 3' to 3.5' shoulders.

Central NH Bicycle Coalition (CNHBC) Update

All Board Member Meeting

CNHBC is holding an all board member meeting on September 18, 5:30-7:30 at a location to be determined. TPAC-B is encouraged to attend the meeting.