



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Police Department community room, 46 Chestnut Street
Meeting Date: **Monday, May 22, 2023**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members present: Maurice Olivier (Chair), Dennis Munson (Clerk), Marn Speidel (Police), Donna Benton (Planning), Jill Semprini (Community Services), Michael Williams (COAST), Susan Tremblay, Peter Schmidt (Alternate).

Members Not Present (Excused): Elizabeth Goldman (Vice Chair)

Members Not Present (Unexcused): Lindsey Williams (City Council), Dustin Gray (Alternate)

1. ROLL CALL

Olivier called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review/approval of minutes from March 27, 2023

Motion: M. Williams moved, Munson seconded, to approve. No amendments were proposed.

Vote: Motion passed 6-0 (Tremblay and Schmidt abstained).

B. Lexington and Cushing Street speed concerns (staff update)

Semprini informed the committee that the Strafford Regional Planning Commission has agreed to conduct traffic counts later this summer. Schmidt stated that he has contacted some residents. Speidel clarified that counts for both speed and volume were requested for Arch, Lexington, Cushing, Belknap and Atkinson.

Liz and Andrew Whelan, Lexington Street residents, asked about the timing of the counts to see if they could be taken sooner, and about next steps. Semprini stated that the issue would be dependent on the SRPC timeline and that we will wait for the count data and then determine next steps.

C. Fifth/Grove reconstruction project – staff update

Semprini gave an update on the project timeline. There is a neighborhood meeting to be scheduled in the near future, following two surveys.

D. Staff update on Downtown Pedestrian and Vehicular Access Improvements project, correspondence regarding Chestnut Street design

Semprini gave an update. GPI (the City's consultant) met with both COAST and Police Department staff to review concerns that each had provided regarding the preliminary design. Speidel added comments that had been passed along by Commission member Goldman in advance of the meeting, attributed to her neighbor Jack Mettee, suggesting more creative pedestrian and bicycle friendly amenities along Chestnut Street and along the Central Avenue corridor between the Chamber and Washington Street, to include parklets along the bridge, a center planting area, and striped bike lanes.



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3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Crosswalk safety concern – Stark Avenue @ Hawthorne

Craig Stevens, 64 Augusta Way, addressed the committee. He stated he uses this crosswalk constantly to cross Stark Avenue, and cars do not stop. He noted concerns of speeding vehicles and of traffic volume on Stark. Schmidt asked the citizen about his experience crossing at night. Stevens stated that cars go by while he is standing in the crosswalk. A suggestion was made about a bucket of red flags that is used in downtown Durham, which pedestrians can use to wave and get drivers' attention. Another resident spoke of experience on Central Avenue near Ham Street. Schmidt stated we need to educate the citizens of Dover about how to approach crosswalks. Speidel spoke about potential signage improvements at the Stark/Hawthorne intersection, noting that at least one of the existing signs is faded and that signs in both directions could be relocated to a better point at the crossing. Schmidt noted that he does not see too many pedestrians crossing here.

Kean McDermott, 128 Back River Road, asked about targeted patrols. Speidel stated that the police department does receive grant funding for targeted pedestrian related patrols, which are usually focused in the downtown area where more pedestrians are found.

B. Oak Street traffic concerns

Speidel gave an overview of citizen concerns that had been shared with the committee with the agenda packet. The lack of sidewalks, speeding vehicles, and truck traffic were among the concerns.

C. Central Avenue at Trakey Street – sight distance concern

Speidel noted that Commission member Goldman had passed along a concern about the ability for drivers to see approaching traffic to the left when vehicles are parked near the corner. Speidel suggested that committee members evaluate this on their own in preparation for the next meeting, and that the matter be tabled until then for Goldman to provide input. M. Williams noted that there are other options for motorists to access Central Avenue via signals, without having to use Trakey Street.

Motion: Schmidt moved, M. Williams seconded, to table this to the next meeting.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0.

D. Smith Well Road water tank project – staff update

Semprini stated that the water tank is under construction. In connection with the project, a Glenwood Avenue temporary detour is planned for later in the summer to allow for a water line crossing near Smith Well Road. Discussion ensued regarding the tank size, and redundancy with the Garrison Hill tower.



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E. Court Street utility project – staff update

Semprini gave an overview of the upcoming Court Street emergency sewer main replacement project, which will lead to intermittent closures of Court Street between Tennyson Avenue and Hubbard Road. Speidel spoke about the Dover Download available on the City's web site, which allows citizens to sign up for email updates about specific projects or traffic issues in general.

4. CITIZENS FORUM

Kean McDermott, 128 Back River Road, noted that this is Public Works week. He stated that last week was Bike to Work week, and he noted that statistics indicate that traffic collisions involving pedestrians have increased.

5. MEMBER COMMENTS

Benton stated that the Dover Community Trail Committee wants a new agenda item added for TAC: discussion and endorsement of the East Coast Greenway connection through Dover.

Speidel clarified this and other future agenda items: Central Avenue @ Trakey Street, and a crosswalk request at the intersection of Glenwood Avenue / Whittier Street / Plaza Drive.

M. Williams stated that COAST's Dover routes are back up to 99% service on Saturdays.

Schmidt stated the 84th anniversary of the sinking of the Squalus off the Isles of Shoals is tomorrow (May 23) and related the story of Seaman Shirley (Dover resident) who was among the 26 who perished amid 33 survivors.

6. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date was tentatively identified as July 24, at 6:00 PM. Benton and M. Williams indicated they could not make this meeting.

7. ADJOURN

Munson moved, Schmidt seconded, to adjourn at 7:00 PM. Motion passed unanimously.