



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Police Department community room, 46 Chestnut Street
Meeting Date: **Monday, September 25, 2023**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members present: Maurice Olivier (Chair), Lindsey Williams (City Council), Elizabeth Goldman (Vice Chair), Michael Williams (COAST), Donna Benton (Planning), Marn Speidel (Police), Jill Semprini (Community Services), Peter Schmidt (Alternate).

Members Not Present (Excused): Susan Tremblay, Dennis Munson (Clerk)

Members Not Present (Unexcused): Dustin Gray (Alternate)

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM with Olivier presiding. Schmidt was recognized as a voting member for tonight's meeting.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review/approval of minutes from July 24, 2023

Motion: Speidel moved, Goldman seconded, to approve with no amendments.

Vote: Motion passed 7-0.

B. East Coast Greenway – Proposed Alternative Route (Dover)

John Wyeth, representing the Dover Community Trail committee, gave an overview of his prior presentation to the TAC. Wyeth spoke about his recent bike trip, where he met people in small towns who were thankful for having him pass through. He asked for the TAC to support the three main items previously outlined.

Motion: Speidel moved, Schmidt seconded, to endorse the concept of an East Coast Greenway route through Dover. Discussion ensued. Wyeth drew a comparison with the Minuteman Trail. Goldman asked how many new bicyclists might be expected on the DTC.

Vote: Motion passed 7-0 (L. Williams abstained).

Speidel asked Wyeth a clarifying question on the preferred route. Wyeth spoke about the timeline for funding and feasibility study. Benton stated there are concerns with putting trail traffic through the neighborhood west of Dover Point Road without the Finch Lane connection.

Motion: Goldman moved, Schmidt seconded, to endorse further study of the feasibility of a preferred route via the Finch Lane and Bellamy River trail connection.

Vote: Motion passed 7-0 (L. Williams abstained).

Wyeth asked for support in building a partnership, and stated that the funding is there for a feasibility study. There is some extra money to support studying a route through Dover. Wyeth stated he is asking for Dover leadership to help participate in helping to find additional funding, and to be part of the coalition for this purpose. Goldman asked whether the City itself would be required to contribute. Benton stated that City staff could not guarantee budgeted funding, but could offer letters of support for this



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Police Department community room, 46 Chestnut Street
Meeting Date: **Monday, September 25, 2023**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

and stated that the feasibility study of a Funch Lane to Mill Street connection was added to the ten-year plan.

Motion: Goldman moved, Benton seconded, to endorse letters of support and for Dover leadership to be part of a coalition studying a route through Dover.

Vote: Motion passed 7-0 (L. Williams abstained).

C. **Lexington and Cushing Street speed concerns**

Liz Whelan of Lexington Street thanked the committee for the recent speed study, and noted that traffic counts were taken in August for a full week. Whelan asked how the data would be processed and expressed concern about the data being skewed by drivers listed in the 5-19 mph range due to a local resident who repeatedly uses a small motorized scooter. She stated that based on her own review, if data from the 5-19 mph was excluded then 59-62% of the traffic on Lexington is speeding.

Nancy Coady-Carroll of Arch Street stated that volumes have increased substantially in recent years. Children are always attended to because of volume and speed. Volume is making the Arch/Silver approach problematic with 2 lanes on Arch and a lack of striping. Semprini stated that there is a plan to add fog lines on Arch Street, creating defined lanes. Coady-Carroll asked whether any consideration is being given to speed awareness signs. Speidel stated that the PD is budgeting for more of the permanent signs for secondary roadways that carry traffic entering the city, and also to replace the speed awareness trailer.

George Liset stated that he has lived on Lexington Street for 40 years. He stated that these streets are attractive nuisances. He noted that with the narrowing of the “bull nose” at Silver, this slows down traffic entering the street and parked cars are helping to calm traffic. As Dover grows, Lexington and Cushing are big pathways to get to the waterfront. Lexington was bucolic in years past, but now there is more traffic and more trucks. Infrastructure in Dover can’t handle the traffic that is being brought. He suggested trying to solve the problem at lowest level, and asked for more police presence. He stated that Lexington used to have a speed table but it was a plowing nightmare.

Speidel stated that this would remain an agenda item. Whelan asked the committee to be prepared for the November meeting.

D. **Central Avenue @ Trakey Street – sight distance concern**

Goldman acknowledged that she had raised this issue. Discussion ensued. Schmidt suggested leaving the parking as is. After additional discussion, Goldman stated she would withdraw the concern at this time.



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Police Department community room, 46 Chestnut Street
Meeting Date: **Monday, September 25, 2023**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

E. Crosswalk safety concern – Horne Street @ Roosevelt Avenue

Semprini stated that staff action is pending on this issue. Discussion ensued. It was suggested that a formal endorsement from the committee – if there is agreement of a public safety concern - would help to support staff action.

Motion: Schmidt moved, M. Williams seconded, to identify the tree as a safety concern and to endorse follow-up by City staff to explore removal of the tree.

Vote: Motion passed 7-0 (L. Williams abstained).

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Correspondence RE: Glenwood Avenue crosswalk request

Speidel gave an overview of email correspondence that a citizen had directed to the committee, requesting consideration of a new crosswalk on Glenwood Avenue at Crestview. Reasons cited included access to the sidewalk on the opposite side of Glenwood and bus stops in the area. Speidel – in response already shared with the committee – noted that the existing Crosswalk Policy and Standards document would govern an evaluation of this request. Necessary thresholds of at least 15 pedestrians during peak periods and traffic volumes on Glenwood would cause this to be rejected as a new uncontrolled crosswalk. Speidel asked whether the committee concurs with this assessment. Consensus was that staff will evaluate locations along Glenwood and return with any new crosswalk recommendations.

B. Correspondence RE: Prospect Street / Snows Court traffic concern

Speidel gave an overview of email correspondence that a citizen had directed to the City Council and Planning Board, with concern for pedestrian safety on Prospect Street. No specific action was recommended by the committee.

C. Correspondence RE: Blackwater Road speed concern

Speidel gave an overview of email correspondence that a Blackwater Road resident has directed to members of the City Council. Speidel's response touched on police enforcement of speeding and the topic of speed tables. The resident had suggested a speed study and also asked for speed awareness signs to be placed on Blackwater Road. Discussion ensued regarding speed awareness signs. Speidel noted that with the prior identified priority of placing speed awareness signs on collector roads with traffic coming in from other jurisdictions, Blackwater Road would be a good candidate for a speed awareness sign. M. Williams commented that technology likely allows for cars to be governed mechanically for excessive speed. Discussion continued on GPS use, and how to have the municipality coordinate with GPS carriers for appropriate street designations. No specific action was recommended by the committee.



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Police Department community room, 46 Chestnut Street
Meeting Date: **Monday, September 25, 2023**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

D. Correspondence RE: Bike lanes

Speidel gave an overview of email correspondence that a citizen had directed to the City Council, expressing concern about bike safety and requesting more established bike lanes. Speidel noted in response (already shared with the committee) that the City has made multimodal transportation a priority and highlighted existing bike lanes on certain corridors. Reference was also made to the NH DOT's Complete Streets project for New Rochester Road, where bike lanes are a proposed design element. Semprini stated that the City already has a Complete Streets policy that we try to incorporate whenever the opportunity presents. No specific action was recommended by the committee.

E. Correspondence RE: Leather Lane speed concern

Speidel gave an overview of a resident's request for a speed table on Leathers Lane and for increased police enforcement. Speidel noted in response (already shared with the committee) that speed tables are generally not favored for a number of highlighted reasons. Improvements to Leathers Lane will include upgraded sidewalks and a narrowing of the road, which are expected to improve pedestrian safety. Speidel noted the limitations on police resources for enforcing a road that is less than 1000 feet in length. No specific action was recommended by the committee.

F. Correspondence RE: Henry Law Avenue speed concern

Speidel gave an overview of a resident's request for a speed table on Henry Law Avenue. Community Services Director Storer, in email correspondence already shared with the committee, cited concerns and limitations with such devices as causing problems with plowing, impeding storm water runoff, and creating some liability for the City.

G. Crosswalk request – Back River Road near Garrison Road – staff update

Semprini gave an overview of recent concern from a school board meeting regarding the safety of a student crossing from Digby Lane over to the sidewalk on Back River Road. Correspondence from Community Services Director Storer to the Superintendent of Schools indicated that this would not be a good location for a mid-block pedestrian crosswalk, and made reference to the adjacent walking path between Danielle Lane and Back River Road along the power lines that might be a safe alternative. Discussion ensued regarding the walking path, which is not currently maintained during winter months. Speidel noted that with the Garrison Elementary School providing bus service to the Danielle Lane neighborhood, there is little to no demand for the path as a safe school route. Consensus was to have staff look more



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Police Department community room, 46 Chestnut Street
Meeting Date: **Monday, September 25, 2023**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

closely at whether a secondary path from Digby Lane to the existing walking path is feasible.

4. CITIZENS FORUM

Kean McDermott, 128 Back River Road, asked whether there was some trigger for an increase in speed concerns lately. Speculation ensued among the committee on reasons why. M. Williams opined that as younger families moving into these same old neighborhoods, new parents are generally more vocal. Schmidt concurred.

5. MEMBER COMMENTS

Goldman asked for an update on the Downtown Pedestrian Access plan. Semprini and Goldman gave updates on the consultant's ongoing work.

Semprini gave update on the Court Street neighborhood reconstruction project, which had just included a neighborhood meeting. Bike lanes are part of the plan. No more road closures are anticipated as part of the emergency utility project.

Semprini gave updates on the Smith Well water tank project and the Fifth/Grove reconstruction project.

Schmidt commented that these days compared to some years ago, City staff is more capable, and employs better planning and better technology to address issues.

6. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date was tentatively identified as November 27, at 6:00 PM.

7. ADJOURN

Benton moved, Goldman seconded, to adjourn at 7:53 PM. Motion passed unanimously.