



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Police Department community room, 46 Chestnut Street
Meeting Date: **Monday, September 23, 2024**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members present: Elizabeth Goldman, Dennis Munson, Peter Schmidt (Alternate), April Richer (City Council), Jill Semprini (Community Services), Donna Benton (Planning). Marn Speidel (Police) arrived at 6:15 PM.

Members Not Present (Excused): Michael Williams (Chair, COAST), Susan Tremblay, Kean McDermott (Alternate)

Members Not Present (Unexcused): None

Note: the audio recorder was not started until after 6:15 PM.

1. ROLL CALL

In the absence of Chairman Williams, Benton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review/approval of minutes from July 22, 2024

Motion: Munson moved, Benton seconded, to approve with no amendments.

Vote: Motion passed 6-0.

B. Old Rollinsford Road pedestrian crossing – WDH request

Staff requested this item be deferred to a future meeting.

C. Pedestrian safety concern – Henry Law Avenue @ Tennyson Avenue

Semprini provided an overview of staff recommendations pertaining to this intersection. Staff recommends:

- 1) Remove the supplemental arrow placard at the crossing point
- 2) Replace the missing pedestrian crossing advance warning sign on the Henry Law Avenue southbound approach
- 3) Evaluate and trim overhanging shrubs or limbs in the right-of-way to improve sight distance looking out from Tennyson

Richer expressed concern that walkability of such areas appears not to be appropriately prioritized. Additional discussion ensued.

Motion: Speidel moved, Benton seconded, to endorse the 3 staff recommendations and have those be action items.

Vote: Motion passed 7-0.

D. Pedestrian safety concern – Chestnut Street @ Third Street

Staff requested this item be deferred to a future meeting as options are still being reviewed.



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3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Stop sign request – Page Avenue at Lowell Street

Matthew Carey, 9 Lowell Avenue, spoke to this concern. He noted that despite the few houses on Page, he has seen some near misses with vehicles not yielding when pulling out of Page. Semprini noted that with so few properties on Page, the stop sign warrant for the MUTCD is not necessarily met. Speidel stated that staff is not opposed to a stop sign here as it would help clarify the right-of-way at this four-leg intersection where only one approach currently has a stop. Speidel described the process of how a committee endorsement would lead to an ordinance revision. Schmidt asked Carey whether a recent addition of stop signs at Mount Vernon and Abbott Streets has had any recent impact.

Motion: Munson moved, Goldman seconded, to endorse an ordinance change to add a stop sign on Page Avenue at Mount Vernon.

Vote: Motion passed 7-0.

B. Pedestrian safety concern – Central Avenue at Hill Street

Speidel gave overview of recent correspondence from a citizen requesting the intersection be considered for a pedestrian-actuated warning beacon system. Richer stated that she crosses at this intersection occasionally. Semprini noted that Community Services has a comparatively small budget (\$15K) annually to be used for traffic calming, which is the category that is deemed to include these RRFB systems. Schmidt asked about the capability for taking pedestrian counts, citing the desire for appropriate allocation of resources compared to other uncontrolled crossings that the City is trying to prioritize. Consensus was to take note of the correspondence at the next opportunity for prioritizing new RRFB system installation.

C. Pedestrian safety concern – Silver Street at Belknap Street

Speidel gave overview of recent correspondence from a citizen requesting this intersection be considered for pedestrian-actuated warning beacons. Speidel noted that for Woodman Park Elementary School walkers on the north side of Silver, there is a safer option than this intersection to get across Silver at the Towle/Arch signals. Consensus was to take note of the correspondence at the next opportunity for prioritizing new RRFB system installation.

4. CITIZENS FORUM

Aaron Daniel Williams refreshed the committee on a recently proposed set of recommendations to narrow the crosswalks at Central/First and 400 Central. Williams stated he wants to follow up and see where this topic is at. He stated that the design of the road itself – to include lane widths and layout - may lend itself to vehicle speeds, and asked what we can do to make streets uncomfortable to drive fast on. Williams also



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expressed concern with how the issue of liability factors in to City staff decision making versus the goal of how to make streets safer.

Schmidt referred to the quantity of crosswalks on South Main Street in Concord, which is difficult to drive due to stop-and-go from all the crosswalks but which has also enhanced the walkability of downtown Concord.

Semprini stated that the revised version of the MUTCD allows for these types of temporary treatments, which create shoulder bump-outs and reduce the overall crossing distance for pedestrians. Goldman asked whether the design should be brought to the City Council. Benton suggested that it go to the Council. Discussion ensued on how the next steps would be undertaken.

Williams stated that he wants to be able to go to the City's Arts Commission to seek some involvement.

Eric Leaver, 42 Main Street, stated he has lived in Dover for 1 year after relocating from San Francisco. He stated he is an avid cyclist and noted that pedestrian and bicycle access to the Dover Transportation Center is an issue. He stated that in his opinion, the Downtown Access project plans are not adequate for pedestrian crossing. He added a preference for a bike lane to be added northbound along Chestnut Street. Discussion ensued.

5. MEMBER COMMENTS

Semprini and Benton gave updates on current and impending projects.

6. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE

The next likely meeting date was identified as November 25, 2024.

7. ADJOURN

Munson moved, Benton seconded, to adjourn at 7:30 PM. Motion passed unanimously.