

**Transportation Advisory Commission, Dover, NH**  
**Minutes of March 23, 2005**

The monthly meeting of the Dover Transportation Advisory Commission called to order by Chair at 6:55 PM, March 23, 2005, in the City Council conference room.

Members Present

Jason Hindle	Chairman
Richard Dolbec	Clerk
Dennis Munson	
Peter Schmidt	COAST
Ed Wentworth	

Staff Present

Bruce Woodruff	Planning
Gary DeColfmacker	Police Department

It is noted that Councilor Mr. Lewis is present.

**I. MINUTES**

(a) Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of February 23, 2005

**Action:** Motion: "That the minutes of the February 23, 2005 meeting be accepted." Made by Dennis Munson, seconded by Ed Wentworth.

There was some discussion a few changes were made to the draft version.  
Vote is to accept as amended - In the affirmative. 4 in favor - Unanimous.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

(a) Crosswalk request Back River Road/Garrison

Sherry Frost Mast Road discussed a path or trail leading from the sand pit to the crossing is used by school children and is concerned with the safety of these students crossing roadway on the way to school.

**DRAFT**

Mr. Woodruff noted that it is on a school route, that the crossing does meet the criteria and a pedestrian crossing would be warranted. However, he noted that paint stripping on the road would not create a "safe" crossing situation. A conceptual design should be made for a crossing which would be safe for school children, including a push button demand traffic light or a crossing guard.

A question came up relative to Community Services but no representative was present.

Gary DeColfmacker indicated that in the short term a crossing guard may be the best advisable alternative. However he pointed out that it was not in the budget and that should be pointed out to the council, in their budget deliberation next month.

**Action:** Motion is made to have staff make review and make their recommendations for action at our next meeting. Table to next meeting.

Made by Dennis Munson, and seconded by Ed Wentworth.

Vote is affirmative 4 in favor - Unanimous.

The chair introduced Mr. Peter Schmidt who just arrived. He is a new member representing COAST.

(b) Crosswalk request Locust Street.

This request for a crosswalk across Locust at Summer Street was made by Mr. Spurling at our last meeting. Mr. Woodruff noted that the conditions for a crosswalk at this location does not meet our standards. There is a guarded crosswalk at Silver St. which is within about 600 feet. It would be for pedestrians to take their safety into their own hands for crossing at this location, or walking the extra distance to the protected cross at Silver. Locust is an alternate route through the city and the traffic volume has increased on this street. Planning does not recommend. Police also does not recommend a crosswalk here.

**Action:** I move that this be tabled indefinitely. Made by Richard Dolbec, seconded by Ed Wentworth. Vote is in the affirmative. 4 in favor - Unanimous

### III. NEW BUSINESS

(a) School zone request Cocheco Arts Academy

Mr. Bernard Rielly 38 Fourth St. Discussed the matter of safety at Fourth and Grove Streets. He noted that vehicles are parking right up to the corner of Grove on Fourth. He has difficulty getting

out of his driveway, due to blocked visibility and the speed of vehicles on Fourth St. He noted that neighbors also have complained on this issue.

Mr. Steve Hagen 17 Grove also pointed out the safety problems in the area. He recommended that the "Charter School" which is operating at the Bell Center communicate with their clients top encourage them to drop off students on Grove St. rather than stopping on Fourth St. It was noted that Fourth St. is of a lower than standard width and cars parking on both sides impedes traffic flow. It gets dangerous. He noted that it was a temporary situation because the school plans on moving to the McConnell center within two years. He recommends the following:

1. Put up School zone signs to slow down the traffic.
2. Parking on both sides on Fourth St. from Chestnut to Grove Streets should be restricted to parking on only 1 side of the street. The side of the Bell Center.

Mr. Woodruff pointed out that the standard width for such streets are 8' parking lanes + 10' driving lanes for 36 foot widths.

Mr. Schmidt pointed out that the no parking here to corner has been helpful at this intersection. He asked if large vehicles such as SUV's and Minivans could be restricted from parking there.

**Action:** A motion to table to the next meeting, to allow time for staff to communicate with residents relative to a proposal to restrict parking on Fourth St. Made by Richard Dolbec, seconded by Dennis Munson. Vote is in the affirmative. 4 in favor - Unanimous - Tabled

(b) Transit Study Review

Bruce Woodruff gave an overview of the transit study report. Discussed costs, funding, capitalization and implementation timetable. Discussed the 3 zones and the transportation center as the hub. Rad Nichols representing COAST also presented material on the study. They are proposing a flexible community service which is accessible and meets the goals. The city council will be presented with the study at the workshop Wednesday April 8th.

**IV OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilor Lewis is recognized to speak. He thanked the commission for their work and was happy that we were dealing with these issues rather than at council level. He brought up the issue of truck routes and what the city should do about trucks. He noted that some street are off limits to trucks for no apparently good reasons such as Arch St

or Whitney which is off limits at one end and not at the other, or for tractor trailers on Sixth Street.

The city should identify the truck routes and it should be done with fairness, safety and quality in mind. We need ordinances to cover the regulations. Trucks should have a reason to be there, either ORIGINATION or DESTINATION, not using the way as a short cut or to get around the Spaulding highway toll booths. The numbered highways are designated truck routes that needs to be codified in city ordinance. After the regulations there should be education, this will mean signs and communication. Finally there will have to be enforcement with citations and fines.

The chair pointed out that it was the commission's intent to update the transportation master plan relative to truck routes. However, we were waiting for the downtown study which has just been completed.

Mr. Scruton said; "I am a pedestrian". Sidewalks are a hazard, there is no place to go, they are buried in snow. When there were shoulders at least there was a place to walk, simply 3 foot shoulders. Last week he saw two mothers pushing baby carriages up Sixth Street with the traffic, that is dangerous. Don't people know they are supposed to walk facing the oncoming traffic? We were taught that years ago!

Tilting sidewalks are a problem, they should not be designed sloping like that. They should be flat.

Why don't we have truck weight restrictions in the spring. In Milton they have a restriction from March 1st through April 30th.

Why don't we have a road agent who can take care of this?

How many times have we had to rebuild Columbus Avenue due to trucks in the spring.

## **V CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Tennyson Avenue - Relative to parking problems by Tim & Carol Marshall
2. Cocheco Park - Relative to parking and noise in the Orchard St. lot. by Rita Moreau
3. Lower Square - Relative to parking issues which are affecting Nicole's business in the evening due to new restaurant businesses in the area. by Janet Perry

## **VI ANNOUNCEMENTS**

March 30, 2005 Meeting on the Bridge Project at 6:30 PM city hall 2nd floor  
April 8, 2005 Workshop Transit Study City Council Chamber 7:00PM.

April 27, 2005 Next meeting of TAC City Council meeting room 7PM

**VII ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: "That the meeting be adjourned."

Made by Dennis Munson and seconded by Richard Dolbec

Vote in the affirmative – 4 in favor -Unanimous.

**Meeting is adjourned at 8:35 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted  
Richard E. Dolbec  
Clerk