



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: FINANCE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM,
(TOP FLOOR, CITY HALL)
Meeting Date: **Monday, May 18, 2009**
Meeting Time: **7:00 pm**

1. ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Member(s) present: Councilor Weston (Chair), Ed Wentworth (Vice Chair), Marn Speidel (Police), Bruce Woodruff (Planning), Ben Clark (Community Services), Sharon Reynolds, John Scruton.

Member(s) absent: Dennis Munson (Secretary), Peter Schmidt (COAST).

Also present: Councilor Doug DeDe, several residents of Lexington Street.

Speidel moved to suspend rules and move New Business Item C ahead, due to the large turnout by residents of Lexington Street. Seconded by Weston. Motion passed 7-0.

4. NEW BUSINESS

C. Lexington Street traffic calming – resident concern

Weston asked the committee what the procedure is to implement traffic calming.

Speidel stated that the Police Department is in favor of traffic calming.

Woodruff stated that the Planning Department is in favor of traffic calming.

John Guy, #5 Lexington St, stated he supports traffic calming but the issue has been discussed for 20 years. Still wants stop signs at Lexington/West Concord.

Jess Richardson, #10 Lexington St, wants three way stop signs at West Concord.

Martin Jaffe, # 24 Lexington St, also wants stop signs, or 3 sets of barrels placed down middle of street.

Roger Hayden, #4 Lexington St, stated UNH race directors have used Lexington Street to measure and calibrate their instruments because it is so straight. It widens at the Washington Street end so there is no buffer for those coming around the corner.

Speidel quoted speed and volume figures from 2005 traffic counts performed on Lexington and Cushing.

Sam Reid, #22 Lexington St, asked where traffic counter was placed because he believes speed figures are low.

Scruton stated that the issue of traffic calming started with Sixth Street, Bellamy Road and Willand Avenue. Stated that the Dover City Council should start issuing directives in support of traffic calming.

Woodruff stated three concerns: 1) There should be a body that hears concerns regarding the City's Transportation Master Plan (TAC), 2) There is limited funding, 3) Issue with snow plowing presents problems with some of the proposed build-outs, bumps, humps, etc.



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Speidel stated that the City staff have already given rationale for why they do not support a three-way stop at Lexington @ West Concord, but the TAC as a body can and should consider the residents' request for a stop sign, whether to vote up or down to recommend it. TAC is configured so that three City staff can still be outvoted on any issue upon which they happen to be unanimous. Speidel stated that the Police Department does not recommend the stop sign, listed reasons quoting the MUTCD stop sign warrant.

John Guy asked whether the stop signs could be put up as a temporary condition, pending further traffic calming measures.

Speidel stated that he would defer to the Chief of Police on his authority to temporarily amend Dover City Code to install stop sign, but historically the Chief has only elected to do this when there is a substantial public safety risk. Example was condition at Henry Law @ George Street, on the day that the one-way traffic condition was implemented.

Weston stated that we should try putting out barrels.

Reynolds stated that we do not want to ignore parallel streets.

Several residents engaged in discussion, suggested that they want to start the process of implementing traffic calming measures.

Weston asked Speidel to inquire of the Chief of Police for his opinion on temporary stop. She asked if anyone on committee has an opinion on barrels.

Clark stated that the department that would actually implement barrels would be Community Services, but wants to consult with City Engineer Dave White before committing to any specific action.

Speidel stated that City Engineer told him that this year, City is resetting and repairing sidewalks and curbing on Lexington Street, so this may be an opportunity for putting in bump-outs or other measures.

Weston made motion to have Community Services Department install barrels.

Vote to install barrels passed 6-0 (Speidel abstained).

Speidel made motion to recommend that the City Engineer, to the extent of his available resources, implement traffic calming measures on Lexington Street.

Vote on motion passed 7-0.

Reynolds made motion for Planning Department to seek grant funding for traffic calming. Vote on motion passed 7-0.

Speidel asked for formal recommendation on stop sign issue.

Weston stated that Chief of Police will be consulted.

Speidel stated that Chief Colarusso will still be looking for a recommendation from the TAC. Why should the Chief take action on something that the TAC has not endorsed?



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Weston stated that her opinion is that the stop sign is not a good measure, wants barrels. Weston asked how barrels would be implemented.

Woodruff stated that it cannot be an obstacle course.

Speidel made motion to implement a three-way stop at the intersection of Lexington and West Concord Streets. Seconded by Woodruff. Vote on motion failed 0-4 (Speidel, Clark, Weston and Wentworth opposed, Scruton, Woodruff and Reynolds abstained).

Weston stated that Lexington Street is a priority.

Sherry-Lynn Wotton, #20 Lexington St, stated her son is autistic; at times he will get out of the yard, and has concerns about him getting hit in the street.

Resident discussion: someone asked about reduction of speed limit on Lexington. Weston deferred to Speidel on the speed limit issue.

Speidel stated that a reduced speed limit had already been requested by Cushing and Lexington Street residents, which was part of the reason for the 2005 traffic counts, and was not endorsed by the TAC. Speidel stated that he did not have copies of NH RSA dealing with local authorities and speed limit reductions, but would bring back at next month's meeting to committee.

A resident raised a concern about vision obstruction by parked cars at the corner of Washington and Lexington, where a parked car on Washington to the right (toward downtown) made it difficult to see.

Speidel stated that all intersections are covered by ordinance stated no parking within 20 feet of a corner, and if there is a recurring problem then City would post a No Parking Here to Corner sign. Residents asked if sign could be posted.

Speidel stated he would request the Facilities, Grounds and Cemeteries initiate a work order for the sign.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review/Approval of meeting minutes from April 27, 2009 meeting

Several amendments proposed by members to the draft minutes prepared by Mr. Munson. Amendments were recorded by Speidel. Motion to approve minutes as amended passed 7-0.

B. Central Avenue Safety and Efficiency Study (RE: Hospital Corridor)

Woodruff stated that it was important that the latest version of this study be available as a link on the City web site, and that prior version was inadvertently linked which will be corrected.



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Woodruff stated that with respect to the WDH proposed expansion, that it is recognized generally that the relocation of Old Rollinsford Road may be detrimental and may lengthen northbound traffic queues on Central Avenue. The bus pull-off lane that WDH added to its proposal will help somewhat for northbound backups. VHB, the hospital's traffic consultant, has agreed to maximize green times on the main line in its signal phasing plan. A pedestrian phase that allows concurrent green time on the main line will be included. Weston stated that she had discussion with Attorney Malcolm McNeil (represents WDH) at the Planning Board site walk.

Woodruff stated that he is working with WDH on transportation demand management plan, trying to reduce its need to build another parking deck. Weston asked what is the time frame for WDH to go to the Planning Board? Woodruff stated we (TAC) should ask Steve Sawyer, who authored the Safety and Efficiency Study, to come speak.

Speidel stated that the Police Department has a concern about any proposal to have pedestrian phase run concurrently with green light, that it poses a potential conflict with who has the legal right-of-way.

Weston stated she wants to reconsider the vote to accept the Central Avenue Safety and Efficiency Study as part of the Transportation Master Plan. Weston made motion to reconsider the vote. Vote on motion passed 4-0 (Speidel, Woodruff and Clark abstained).

C. Federal/State grant eligible Transportation Improvement Project solicitation and regional priorities

Woodruff gave overview of the Planning Department's recommendations that were given to the Strafford Regional Planning Commission. He will forward a copy of the recommendations to all TAC members by E-mail in the next week.

D. Crosswalk policy and assessment project – staff update

Speidel moved to table to a future meeting, seconded by Clark. Voted 7-0.

E. Garrison School parking & traffic – staff update

Woodruff stated that the sub-committee has met once, and also has a scheduled meeting on May 19 at the Garrison School conference room.

Clark stated that stairs from Shaws Lane parking lot have been repaired.

Weston stated that the School Board is holding its appropriation of another project to possibly go into this study by redirection. She stated that she school department is open to fixing this problem.



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4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tolend Road @ Washington Street intersection – resident concern

Wentworth stated that he had received this concern from an acquaintance, who is also an engineer for the NH DOT, proposing that the City change the inbound stop condition to be on Tolend Road rather than on Washington Street.

Woodruff stated that we would need to gather data on this, such as traffic counts, to make an informed recommendation.

Weston asked how we would go about this.

Clark stated he would check to see how they go about gathering data.

B. Sixth Street pavement striping – resident/commissioner concern

Scruton proposes adjusting the fog lines inward by one foot, on the portion of Sixth Street from Hillcrest Avenue to Whittier Street.

Woodruff stated that at the neighborhood meeting for the Sixth Street project, 11' travel lanes were proposed and agreed to. This is what exists today. Woodruff is in favor of reducing the travel lanes to 10', but his opinion is not the final say for the Planning Department.

Speidel stated that the Police Department would be in favor of 10' travel lanes.

Clark stated that he spoke to City Engineer Dave White before the meeting and that he was against this idea.

Scruton stated that Dave White is always against any form of traffic calming.

Scruton made motion to recommend that Engineering Department adjust fog lines inward on Sixth Street between Hillcrest and Whittier. Seconded by Wentworth.

Vote on motion passed 6-0 (Clark abstained).

5. MEMBER COMMENTS

Woodruff and Speidel stated that the Community Trail project would require the closure of Silver Street for at least four weeks, beginning on May 26, 2009.

6. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.