



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Monday, August 2, 2010**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

1. ROLL CALL

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. Meeting notes were recorded by Speidel.

Members Present: Karen Weston (Chair), Ed Wentworth, Jack Flick, John Scruton, Marn Speidel (Police), Bruce Woodruff (Planning), Ben Clark (Community Services).

Members Absent: Dennis Munson, Peter Schmidt

Others Present: J. Michael Joyal, Jr. (City Manager), Doris Grady, Linda Merullo, Charlie Wolfe

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review/Approval of meeting minutes from May 24, 2010 meeting

Weston asked members if there were any amendments to the draft minutes.

Wentworth and Scruton suggested changes. Woodruff moved to adopt as amended, seconded by Wentworth. Motion passed 7-0.

B. Newington/Dover bridge project – Dover Point layout

Weston asked several questions about roundabouts. Woodruff answered. Speidel handed out a Meeting Notice for an upcoming Planning Board meeting, on August 10 at 7:00 PM, where the NH Department of Transportation will give an overview of an option for a roundabout at the intersection of Boston Harbor and Spur Roads. Members of the TAC were encouraged to attend.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Long Hill Road @ Old Rochester Road safety concern

Councilor Weston introduced residents Doris Grady and Linda Merullo and referred to prior correspondence she had received regarding safety concerns at this intersection. Doris Grady described the issue that she has observed, which primarily involves vehicles turning left from Old Rochester onto Long Hill and being overtaken by a vehicle passing on the right. The passing vehicle appears from the "blind side" for a vehicle that is turning in the opposite direction. Grady stated there have been a large number of crashes here and asked for a solution. Linda Merullo added to the discussion. Merullo stated that the traffic hazards are worst when people are exiting the Shell station in the morning. She suggested a yellow/red blinking light but one which gives Long Hill Road the primary yellow, not the red. Grady cited heavy volume on Old Rochester Road and stated that the traffic conditions have at least improved since the lane designation on Long Hill Road as part of the New Rochester Road signal project.



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Woodruff stated that the NH DOT has acknowledged that signal warrants are now met at this intersection, since the installation of the New Rochester / Long Hill signal. Woodruff gave an overview of the history of the TIP (Transportation Improvement Project) process, which was initiated to include both intersections. NH DOT had acknowledged that the "one-hour" warrant was met at Old Rochester based on 2006 counts, but the "eight-hour" and "full day" warrants were not yet met. Woodruff stated he thinks we can do better with the channelization of traffic and striping. He stated that he recommends that the TAC recommend this intersection for a CIP project. Woodruff stated that Old Rochester Road is now an alternative route to avoid construction on the Spaulding Turnpike in Rochester, plus it can be used to avoid tolls. Woodruff stated that City officials would apply for State TIP funding but there must be a 20% match through a local CIP.

Grady stated that there would be more traffic once the dog park opens. Weston handed out a hand drawn schematic of intersection and asked whether the business signs in the area pose a visual obstruction and whether they are up to code. Woodruff stated he could check and see if the signs are up to code. Merullo stated that there are a number of walkers in area but no sidewalks. Scruton asked if curb cuts could be limited. Woodruff responded to Scruton and described how several curb cuts were eliminated with the previous signal project. Speidel stated that if there was sufficient roadway width on Long Hill Road, perhaps the traffic could be channelized better and a center lane could be striped. This would improve the line of sight for turning vehicles and make it more clear that the thru lanes on Old Rochester had the right-of-way. Weston asked whether staff could review this and have more information at the August 23 meeting. Flick asked if staff could also include pedestrian information in the report, with the school year starting soon.

Resident Charlie Wolfe was invited by Councilor Weston to address the committee. Wolfe stated that he lives at #65 Silver Street and he thought that there was a "citizen's forum" portion to the meeting. Wolfe stated he wanted to address the truck traffic on Silver Street. He stated that the road is in poor condition, and it is "like a drag strip" at all times of the day except between 1 AM and 5 AM. Wolfe stated that his house shakes when trucks speed past, especially due to bumps and ruts in the road. He asked for the road to be smoothed out, even in the short term. Woodruff stated that Silver Street is in the CIP for reconstruction in 2014/2015. Joyal stated that there is a progression of work leading up to major reconstruction on the street, including gas main replacement and water main work. Joyal stated that the City could still cut and patch existing spots, and ultimately the funding for the CIP project is the City Council's decision.

B. Review of Administrative Code: Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Weston noted that the Council has voted on a new Administrative Code but she was informed that they could be revisited. Weston referred to copies of the old and new



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Codes that were distributed prior to the meeting. She noted that one example of a change is in the committee membership – no COAST rep is provided in the new version. She asked for consensus on the issue of membership. Discussion ensued. Weston said that it was agreed, through consensus, that the COAST rep would be added back in. Speidel noted that several of these issues are described in the TAC by-laws already, so they may not necessarily need to be written into the Code unless there is a conflict between them. Weston stated that there are also differences with vacancies and absences. She asked for a motion to table this item to the August 23 meeting. Motion was made and seconded, motion passed 7-0.

C. Transportation-related CIP projects – preliminary discussion

Woodruff stated that the Planning Department is in the process of soliciting with department heads for appropriate future projects. He stated that they are looking for a list of important, worthy transportation projects to make their way into the City's CIP list. Woodruff stated that one of the TAC's charges is to hold annual public meetings for citizens to come in with their issues for transportation improvement projects. He stated that the TAC should consider whether to have such a forum. He cited examples of concerns from tonight's meeting (Old Rochester Road, Silver Street). He invited committee members to go on line and look at the current version of the CIP and to review the Transportation Master Plan.

Weston posed a question to Joyal about large school projects. Joyal explained how projects are prioritized to a final list in the CIP. Woodruff suggested that a public transportation forum be held at the August 23 meeting. Weston agreed and suggested that no more items be added to the agenda. She asked where the public forum would be put on the agenda. Consensus was that it be held first.

4. MEMBER COMMENTS

Speidel:

Speidel thanked Wentworth for his nine years on the committee, and noted that he had informed the Chairperson Weston that he would not be seeking reappointment. Speidel presented Wentworth with a gift from City staff. Joyal also addressed Wentworth and thanked him for his time on the TAC and for his service to the community.

Speidel stated that there were three intersections that required further formal action from the TAC to recommend Chapter 166 revisions. He asked for consensus from the committee on whether to add them to a future agenda or to hear and act on them tonight. Consensus was that they be addressed tonight.

- 1) **Intersection of Henry Law Avenue @ George Street:** Speidel gave overview of the history here with the Henry Law Avenue reconstruction project. Temporary stop signs were erected on the day that Henry Law was converted to one-way, making



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this a three-way stop intersection, on September 11, 2008, by authority of the Chief of Police. The TAC had discussed the issue at its September 22, 2008 meeting but the TAC voted 3-4 (against staff recommendation) to table this issue instead of adding this to City Code as a stop intersection. Speidel stated that the stop signs were still in place and that there were no plans to change the traffic flow at this time. Speidel moved to add this intersection to Chapter 166 schedule of stop intersections. Seconded by Woodruff. Motion passed 7-0.

- 2) **Intersection of Washington Street @ Main Street:** Speidel stated that with the opening of the Makem bridge on Washington Street, there will likely be an increase in traffic using River and Washington Streets to access downtown. He noted that there is no traffic control device at Washington & Main westbound, which is no longer a dead end. Speidel recommended that a yield sign be installed and that this be added to the Chapter 166 schedule of yield intersections. Woodruff moved, Wentworth seconded, to add this as a yield intersection. Motion passed 7-0.
- 3) **Intersection of River Street @ Washington Street:** Speidel started that a temporary stop sign had been installed, on River Street at its intersection with Washington on the east side of the Makem bridge. Discussion ensued. It was noted that this will become a three-way intersection once the waterfront is developed. Consensus was to leave this in place as a temporary measure and revisit in six months. Joyal stated he would like the Engineering Department to review the sight lines at this intersection and return to the TAC, possibly at the October 25 meeting, with any further traffic control recommendations at this intersection.

Flick:

Flick brought up issue of the one-way turnaround at Central Avenue and Second Streets. Discussion ensued on the lane use. Speidel pointed out that the lane use in the turnaround is covered not only by painted arrows but by a posted lane use sign, which is a regulatory sign and is enforceable. Speidel stated that issues at the turnaround are largely a function of the traffic backup from the lower square (Central @ Washington). Joyal stated that this intersection was reviewed under the Rizzo Associates downtown transportation study, and the City had the opportunity to look more closely at specific intersection improvements, but the City Council had voted to place a moratorium on any further Rizzo improvements. Weston stated that she had polled every business and there was still an issue with loading zones and view of businesses. Weston suggested to Flick that when making a left turn onto Central Avenue, that he make his turn first into the left lane and proceed, then merge into the right lane. She stated that she has tried this since Speidel had suggested it months ago and she finds it helpful.

Scruton:

Scruton stated the committee should not send citizens out empty-handed after hearing their concerns, with the statement that there is no money for improvements. Citizens should be given plans. Scruton asked how long Silver Street will be expected to last after its reconstruction. He brought up the issue of neighborhood meetings and said there was inadequate notice for some of the Henry Law Avenue improvements.



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Woodruff responded that there were several neighborhood meetings for Henry Law Avenue.

Clark:

Clark stated that there would be a neighborhood meeting for the next phase of Henry Law Avenue reconstruction and another for the Applevale reconstruction project. Meeting notices would be out soon, and the TAC would be included on the distribution list.

Scruton:

Scruton brought up an issue with drainage using sidewalks with storm drains vs. shoulders with no curb. Asked whether upper section of Henry Law Avenue is considered a scenic road.

Wentworth:

Wentworth stated that he was grateful for his time on the committee and said he wanted to leave with a few concerns. First, a leading green arrow on Central Avenue southbound at Henry Law Avenue is needed. He stated that traffic backup is worse now, with the arrow at the end of the phase, than it would be if the arrow was provided at the beginning of the phase. Second, an issue with use of a 45 degree curb which butts up flush against an asphalt sidewalk. This leads to heaving and causes the sidewalk to crack on the upper edge. Wentworth distributed photos showing this condition in two locations in the City. Clark stated that the Engineering Department was aware of this concern and would avoid it in the future.

Flick:

Flick stated that speed table was recently installed on Lexington Street and asked whether data from a recent traffic count was available. Speidel stated that he was still in the process of downloading the data and preparing a report which would compare the data on Cushing and Lexington Streets.

Weston:

Weston stated she believed traffic volumes on French Cross Road have spiked recently and asked whether there was any factor that has caused this. Discussion ensued.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

August 23, 2010 @ 6:00 P.M. in auditorium. Agenda items were noted as (1) Public transportation forum, (2) Staff report on Long Hill @ Old Rochester intersection, (3) Review of Administrative Code

6. ADJOURN

Motion was made and seconded, all in favor, to adjourn at 8:30 PM.