



**CITY OF DOVER**

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Location: First Floor Conference Room (across from City Mgr office)  
Meeting Date: **Monday, January 24, 2011**  
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

### 1. ROLL CALL

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M.

**Members Present:** Karen Weston (Chair), Jack Flick, John Scruton, Dennis Munson, Maurice Olivier, Peter Schmidt, Marn Speidel (Police), Bruce Woodruff (Planning)

**Members Absent:** Ben Clark (Community Services)

**Others Present:** Tom Clark (Building Official, City of Dover), Jeremy LaRose (COAST)

#### A. Administrative matters – new member orientation

Maurice Olivier was introduced to the committee as a newly appointed member. Speidel handed out some useful materials. Olivier asked committee members what they thought was the most important challenge facing this commission. Discussion ensued. Woodruff introduced Jeremy LaRose, Director of Operations and Planning for COAST. Weston spoke about COAST involvement and the recent administrative code change to the committee's membership.

Speidel moved, seconded by Schmidt, to address New Business item A next on the agenda. Motion passed 8-0.

### 3. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. E-911 street name change / renumbering – New Rochester Road (preliminary discussion)

Woodruff stated that the city had received a communication from the Somersworth City Engineer regarding a proposal to rename Route 108 in their jurisdiction to White Mountain Highway. Tom Clark stated that it was suggested that Dover consider renaming New Rochester Road in the same manner. Clark stated that he had conferred with Dover Fire Department officials regarding this, and so far the reaction was negative to the idea. Schmidt asked for clarification. Discussion ensued. Woodruff stated that NHDOT traffic counts dating back to the 1990's still refer to the Dover stretch of New Rochester Road as "White Mountain Highway", as this was the common name for all of the old Route 16 outside the urban compact areas. Speidel stated that there may still be some potential for confusion between "New" and "Old" Rochester Roads, but otherwise no compelling reason for a name change at this time. Flick moved, seconded by Schmidt, to endorse the idea to keep the name as New Rochester Road at this time. Motion passed 8-0.

### 2. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Review/Approval of minutes from December 13, 2010



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Speidel stated that draft minutes were now available, though committee members had not been provided advance copies. Speidel handed out copies of the draft minutes. Weston asked for consensus on whether to review and approve the minutes immediately or table to the February meeting. Consensus was to table them to February meeting.

### **B. Crosswalk inventory and review – staff update**

Woodruff stated that staff review was completed within the deadline imposed by the department heads. Speidel stated that Ben Clark has been the point person for this project but could not attend tonight's meeting. Speidel suggested tabling this item to the February meeting. Flick asked whether there would be enough time to implement any recommended changes coming out of the crosswalk review before the City's painting contractor came in. Woodruff stated that there would be enough time to implement striping-related changes.

### **C. Crosswalk request, River Street at Henry Law Avenue**

Speidel gave overview of this request, which proposed a new crosswalk across River Street at the intersection of Henry Law. Speidel stated that our crosswalk standards would define this as intersection related. Speidel gave staff recommendation which was to endorse the request. Woodruff concurred. Scruton spoke about traffic calming on River Street. Woodruff stated that traffic calming on River Street was an important topic but not germane to the crosswalk request. Weston asked whether River Street traffic had increased since the opening of the new bridge at the end of Washington Street. Speidel stated that the PD has not conducted any traffic counts here. Flick inquired about the future of the skate park. Weston stated she thought the skate park might be moved to Maglaras Park at some point. Flick proposed that the committee stick with this agenda item at this time. Schmidt moved, Flick seconded, to endorse the request for a new crosswalk to be installed across the mouth of River Street at Henry Law. Motion passed 8-0.

### **D. Crosswalk request, Central Avenue at Chamber of Commerce**

Speidel and Woodruff gave overview of the crosswalk request. Speidel handed out copies of the letters that had been addressed (Chamber of Commerce, Wyskiel/Boc/Tillinghast/Bolduc Law Office, Simply Green, Seacoast Growers Association) in support of a new crosswalk. Speidel stated that City staff has performed a site review and despite the fact that this qualifies as a mid-block crossing, staff cautiously supports the concept of a crosswalk here provided that certain pre-conditions are met. Speidel listed five conditions:

- (1) Crosswalk upstream on Central @ St. Charles Church is eliminated
- (2) Must include appropriate parking buffer on both sides of Central Avenue, which likely means the loss of 2-4 on street parking spaces (some are regained with elimination of upstream crosswalk)



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- (3) Appropriate advance warning signs and W11-2c crosswalk warning signs at point of crossing, recommended size 30" x 30"
- (4) Install ADA-compliant tip-downs in curbs on both sides of Central Avenue
- (5) Integrate crosswalk with existing COAST/Wildcat Transit stop

Speidel stated that this should also involve the Parking Commission inasmuch as the parking spaces were considered part of the downtown parking inventory. Speidel stated that this was strictly a concept issue, since the layout would still need to be engineered. Speidel stated that the most suitable location appeared to be just to the south side of New York Street, and noted that an existing street light on the west side of Central may prove adequate for lighting concerns.

Schmidt asked whether there was adequate demand for this crosswalk. Speidel noted the correspondence from the several abutters appears to indicate that there is demand, even outside the seasonal Farmer's Market. Weston asked which option city staff was endorsing. Speidel stated that while the Chamber of Commerce had provided 3 location options, staff had undertaken the review with the entire block in mind. The most suitable location did appear to be closest to Option A. Discussion ensued. LaRose noted that there is a northbound bus stop near the driveway of Simply Green and that it is well-used, especially by Wildcat Transit riders. LaRose also noted there is a storm drain in this area that is sunken, which needs to be addressed. Flick asked whether it is possible to upgrade the whole area, and asked whether, for example, a median refuge island would fit in this location. Flick stated he was in favor of a crosswalk at some location to accommodate the activity around the new Chamber visitor center.

Scruton stated that sometimes when it gets to a point that you don't want pedestrians to cross at a particular location, you block them by putting up a fence or obstruction. Schmidt stated that option 1 appears to be the best of the 3, but we should consider moving pedestrians to another location instead. LaRose stated that Wildcat Transit has heavy demand at that particular bus stop, and recounted how most evenings when the transit bus stops, students disembark and scatter in all directions including across Central Avenue. Schmidt discussed analogy with crosswalk at Chestnut/Orchard by the Post Office, with bus stops introducing pedestrians to the area plus an elderly component. Weston stated that the concept is there, but we do not have engineering done. Munson moved, seconded by Flick, to approve the concept of a crosswalk installation in this location, with the five conditions listed earlier. Motion passed 8-0.



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### **E. TAC membership Administrative Code change – staff update**

Speidel reminded committee members of upcoming Council meeting on 1/26/2011 for public hearing on admin code change. Weston asked for show of hands on which committee members could make it. Schmidt stated that public transit is a frequent issue and the TAC should have a direct COAST connection.

### **4. MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Scruton:** discussed roundabouts. Stated that they need a soft landing if you get off track and hit the splitters, which could cause you to stove in your front end. Woodruff stated that they are normally constructed with sloped granite curbs, not vertical. Scruton stated that the Town of Durham has vertical curbs. Woodruff stated that perhaps Durham really wants you to slow down.

**Scruton:** referred to draft December minutes, spoke about storm water run-off.

**Woodruff:** stated he would have Land Use Regulations 2011 document for committee members at next meeting.

**Flick:** would like to see statistics on pedestrian safety and traffic flow related to shoulders vs. sidewalks. Stated that safety of pedestrian is concern and that he is not necessarily an advocate of sidewalks, but that if sidewalks are used, can they be installed with no obstructions so that they can be effectively cleared by means of a wing plow.

**Scruton:** cited example of sidewalk on New Rochester Road – sidewalk is gone now that snow covers the area but there are no adequate shoulders either.

**Olivier:** same issue on Glenwood.

**Schmidt:** stated that he uses the roundabout frequently in Concord and it works.

Discussion ensued on the suitability of the first floor conference room for TAC meetings, vs. other alternatives including the second floor conference room, city council chambers, or the auditorium.

### **5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING**

February 28, 2011 @ 6:00 PM

### **6. ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM