



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Council Chambers, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Monday, July 22, 2013**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

1. ROLL CALL

Weston called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Members present: Councilor Karen Weston (Chair), Marn Speidel (Police), Jeremy LaRose (COAST), Ben Clark (Community Services), Jack Flick, Maurice Olivier, Dennis Munson

Members absent: Chris Parker (Planning), Dustin Gray, Peter Schmidt (Alternate)

Others present: Nancy Boyle, Barbara Trow, Jeff Bernstein

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review/approval of minutes from May 20 and June 17, 2013

The Chair asked for any amendments and none were proposed.

LaRose moved, Munson seconded, to accept the minutes of May 20. Motion passed 7-0.

Munson moved, Olivier seconded, to accept the minutes of June 17. Motion passed 7-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Crosswalk concern – Silver Street (formerly Extension) at Exit 8 NB on ramp

Speidel gave an overview of the concern, and referred to a handout showing copies of a 2000 sketch and agreement between the NHDOT and the City of Dover to allow the City to maintain this crosswalk.

Speidel noted that there is a pedestrian tunnel under the Spaulding Turnpike at the end of this dead-end street, and the crosswalk provides a connection to the existing sidewalk along the north side of Silver Street.

Speidel also noted that staff just recently learned of this agreement and that this crosswalk was not included in the recent City inventory and safety review of all crosswalks. Speidel stated that this agreement precedes the City's crosswalk policy and standards, and when residents raised the issue, city staff performed a site review in accordance with the current policy. Speidel referred to sections of the crosswalk policy pertaining to "mid-block" crosswalks, and noted that if we followed our current policy, this crosswalk would be rejected and would never have been painted. Speidel also noted that this is NHDOT jurisdiction (outside the urban compact) and ultimately could or should be maintained as part of the Exit 8 interchange by NHDOT staff. The NHDOT standard for a crosswalk is simply the two white horizontal bars, not the full zebra pattern that the City uses.

Nancy Boyle, 4 Chandler Way, stated she walks in this area frequently. She stated those who do walk here are likely to be kids or older people. Those who use the tunnel have to cross the on ramp, where motorists are accelerating to get onto the highway. Boyle suggested that the City consider repainting the lines at least in accordance with the prior agreement. Speidel asked Boyle whether Woodman Park Elementary students used to cross through the tunnel while walking to school at one time, and she said they did. Speidel noted that students are now bussed from the west side of the turnpike.

Barbara Trow, 192 Silver Street, stated that the crosswalk has been in place here for at least 60 years (since the Spaulding Turnpike was created) and that it isn't anything new. Boyle stated that she has lived here for that long and that the crosswalk was created in 1955.

Jeff Bernstein, 195 Silver Street, stated that he has lived here for 17 years and described how he got the State to repaint the crosswalk 8 years ago. Bernstein spoke about the need to show people the appropriate point to cross, because without the crosswalk people are crossing at any number of points. He stated that he believes the crosswalk gives a visual indicator of this is where you should cross.



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Council Chambers, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Monday, July 22, 2013**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

LaRose noted that the Knox Marsh/Littleworth intersection (west of the interchange) does not have good pedestrian access, and that the signals have not been fully upgraded to connect all legs that have a sidewalk.

Flick asked Speidel and Clark some clarifying questions. Discussion continued, back and forth between committee members and residents, regarding the liability of using City resources for maintenance when it is known that other upgrades (including ADA accessibility) are needed.

LaRose moved to recommend that City staff repaint the lines, and upgrade the area with other measures in the best judgment of staff in accordance with our crosswalk policy when funds become available. Olivier seconded. Discussion continued. Flick stated he has an issue with the “funding” language in the motion, with respect to applying City money to State land. Additional discussion pertained to how much staff should or should not do for upgrades. It was noted that the Silver Street reconstruction project may include changes to this portion of the interchange (including a proposed roundabout), but that phase of the Silver Street project was not yet funded or NHDOT-approved. Weston asked whether changes/upgrades as proposed would require full ADA compliance. Staff responded that simply painting the lines would not be considered an upgrade, which would not trigger ADA. Motion passed 7-0.

Silver Street residents expressed appreciation and exited the meeting.

B. Parking concerns – Court and Union Streets, Central Avenue and Union Street

Speidel gave an overview of a resident’s correspondence to Councilor Weston. The first concern was that the parking setback on Union Street from the intersection with Court Street is not large enough, that it should be longer to reduce the potential for turning conflicts at the intersection. Speidel stated that Police and Engineering had performed a site review. The staff recommendation is to relocate the “No Parking Here to Corner” sign approximately 10 feet eastward, which would require drilling a new hole in the sidewalk. Munson moved, Olivier seconded, to recommend the sign be relocated as recommended by staff. Motion passed 7-0.

Speidel described the second concern as listed in the “post script” of the correspondence, regarding a suggested parking setback at the corner of Union and Central. Speidel stated that a hedge row currently blocks the effective placement of a “no parking here to corner” sign, and to install a sign would probably require removal of the hedgerow. Staff recommendation, following a site review by Police and Engineering, is to take no action at this time but continue to monitor the area. It was noted that Union Street here is one-way eastward away from Central, so there is no visibility problem posed by the hedgerow and little potential for a conflict between turning vehicles. Munson moved, Olivier seconded, to recommend no action be taken. Motion passed 7-0.

C. Downtown pedestrian/vehicular access and streetscape study – staff update

Speidel gave an update to the committee on behalf of Planning Director Parker. The RFP has been sent out and is due back to the City on August 15. The Planning Department hopes to interview applicants the following week, and to select someone for award of bid by the September 11 Council meeting.

4. MEMBER COMMENTS

Olivier stated that he had been studying the recent changes to the crosswalk on Chestnut Street near St. Mary’s Church, and he is fascinated by the behaviors of pedestrians there who continue to cross even though the



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Council Chambers, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Monday, July 22, 2013**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

crosswalk is painted black. Discussion ensued. Weston asked whether staff could put up a sign that says that the crosswalk is no longer to be used. Flick noted that the curb tip-downs are still present, which contributes to the feel that this is an appropriate place to cross.

Flick brought up the intersection of Chestnut and Washington Streets, and stated that at some point he'd like the pedestrian access study to include an analysis of the conflict between the pedestrian signals and right-on-red movements by motorists who turn from Washington onto Chestnut westbound during the pedestrian phase. Flick himself has almost been hit twice. Speidel noted that this problem is not unique to this intersection, that it also occurs at Chapel/Main, Silver/Arch, and Exit 7SB/Central. Speidel stated that the police department had recommended an MUTCD-approved sign, "Turning Vehicles Yield to Pedestrians" be placed at several of these intersections.

Weston asked whether traffic counts were available for Watson Road. Speidel stated that he could provide them once the data was downloaded. Weston asked about the status of brush cutting, as the only remaining issue that the residents had brought up that had not been addressed. Clark stated he would check into the crush cutting.

LaRose announced that he is leaving the area to attend graduate school. He named the proposed COAST appointee, Brian Deguzis, who would be taking his place as Operations Manager. Weston stated she appreciates LaRose's input to the committee.

LaRose said COAST will hold public hearings this week regarding more service cuts and potential fare increases coming. He stated that ridership on Sixth and County Farm, the Dover intra-city route, will be maintained.

Speidel thanked LaRose for his service, both to the committee and to the community through his professional work with COAST.

5. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE

Speidel stated that he could not make either an August 19 or 26 meeting date. Discussion ensued. The next meeting date was confirmed for September 23, 2013.

6. ADJOURN

Munson moved to adjourn at 7:25 PM, Olivier seconded. Motion passed 7-0.