



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Council chambers, second floor City Hall
Meeting Date: **Monday, September 25, 2017**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members present: Mayor Karen Weston (Chair), Marn Speidel (Police), Gretchen Young (Community Services), Chris Parker (Planning), Dennis Munson (Clerk), Maurice Olivier (Vice Chair), Dustin Gray, David Gray (Alternate)

Members Absent: Michael Williams (COAST), Peter Schmidt (Alternate)

1. Roll Call

Weston called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Old Business

A. Review/approval of minutes from July 17, 2017

Motion: Olivier made a motion, seconded by Dustin Gray, to approve.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0

3. Motion: Speidel made a motion, seconded by Parker to move item 3A on the agenda to the next item.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0

4. Item 3A from agenda – Chestnut Street crosswalk concern

Speidel summarized that as part of the redevelopment of the parking garage, police station and Orchard Street area, the crosswalk across Chestnut Street at the intersection of Orchard Street was recently relocated from the north side of Orchard Street to the south side, and reconfigured from having a pedestrian refuge island in the center of Chestnut Street to having two bump outs at either side of the roadway.

Charlene Hodsdon, Assistant Manager of Cochecho Park Apartments, was present to discuss the item. She stated that she has witnessed vehicles exiting the parking garage and quickly taking a left onto Chestnut Street without looking for pedestrians. She said she had one resident almost hit. She would like to see a pedestrian crossing sign with flashing lights.

Jean O'Shea, a resident of Riverview Apartments, was present to discuss the item. She stated that there are still lines where the old crosswalk use to be, and that it is difficult to tell if this is still a crosswalk. She also stated that many of the crosswalks up and around Chestnut Street are very faded and difficult to discern if they are meant to be crosswalks. She is concerned about the large unsightly barrels that sit in front of the Chestnut Street crosswalk.

Parker stated that staff are looking into options of relocating one of the pedestrian crossing signs at Fourth Street to this location, and that the barrels are scheduled to be removed. Speidel noted that the changes that were recently made on Chestnut Street were first steps toward adopting the recommendations made in the Downtown Pedestrian and Vehicular Study, but that some of the more costly recommendations, such as a roundabout at the Third Street intersection, have not yet been implemented. Speidel also stated that there are areas along Chestnut Street up toward Sixth Street that are scheduled to be repaved this year, and the crosswalk locations will be restriped after that work is complete.



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Motion: Speidel made a motion, seconded by Munson to relocate one of the flashing signs at Fourth Street to this Chestnut Street crossing.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0

5. **Motion:** Munson made a motion, seconded by Dustin Gray to move Citizens Forum to the next item.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0

6. **Item 4 from agenda - Citizens Forum**

Ray Bardwell of 199 Spur Road was present to speak about the proposed work on Spur road. He stated that the roadway is very narrow and that cars travel at high speeds making it an unsafe condition for pedestrians. He said he has looked into purchasing a vehicular speed monitor and asked if the Police Department could place one along Spur Road. He also noted that he believes the tollbooth should be located in Newington so that Spur Road would not be an option to bypassing the toll.

John Storer, City of Dover Community Services Director, stated that there are currently plans to appropriate funds for the design of Spur Road. As part of that the City will have a surveyor investigate the area and determine the right of way width, and other factors, that would determine the viability of adding sidewalks along this roadway. He stated that the funding was on the agenda to be discussed at the September 27th City Council meeting. At this point it is premature to determine what is feasible. Parker stated that the City has been actively involved in the relocation of the tollbooth, and understands that for funding reasons, the Newington location is not viable. The City is now supporting the relocation to a point further north on the Spaulding.

7. **Item 2B from agenda - Hill Street Commercial Vehicle Concern**

Speidel stated that based on our discussion at the last TAC meeting, staff has proposed an amendment to the list of truck routes in Chapter 166-5 section 2(b) to include Oak Street from Central Avenue to Broadway, and Broadway, and Pierce Street from Broadway to Central Avenue. The purpose of this amendment is to be able to restrict through trucks originating on Broadway from using Hill Street or other neighborhood streets as access to Central Avenue. Staff also proposes an amendment to Chapter 166-5 section (4) to change the wording from "Permanent Revisions" to "Temporary Revisions" because any permanent change to the language in the ordinance will need City Council approval, whereas a temporary modification could be approved at the TAC level.

Motion: Speidel made a motion, seconded by Munson, to send the draft revisions to Chapter 166 of the City Ordinance as proposed to the legal department and onto City Council for review and adoption.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0

8. **Item 3B from agenda – Middle Road Traffic Concerns**

No one from the public was present to address the item.

Motion: Parker made a motion, seconded by Munson; to take no action.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0



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9. Item 3C from agenda – Bayview Road traffic concern

Speidel stated that residents have complained of speeding traffic on Bayview Road after the roadway was paved. The City has conducted a speed study and found that the average speed on the roadway is 17 mph with an 85th percentile speed of 23 mph which would not warrant any additional action.

Motion: Parker made a motion, seconded by Olivier; to take no action.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0

10. Item 3D from agenda – 166-5C Commercial vehicle exemption – Third Street project

Speidel stated that the construction project at the former Third Street parking lot is scheduled to begin. The access through the site is very narrow and there is no way for trucks to turn around. The closest truck route is Central Avenue via Third Street, however trucks exiting the site are not able to make the turn back to Central Avenue. The contractor is seeking temporary authority to exit the site onto Chestnut Street and travel south down Chestnut Street to Washington Street and back to Central Avenue.

Motion: Parker made a motion, seconded by Munson, to temporarily allow Chestnut Street from Third Street to Washington Street to be used as a truck route.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0

11. Item 3E from agenda – Transportation improvement grant applications – Planning Department

Parker indicated that the state has opened up a funding opportunity through the Federal Highway Administration Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program. The city is in the process of putting together three separate applications for the following projects:

Route 108 and Back River Road - \$1,250,000

Chestnut Street and Third Street - \$1,250,000

Weeks Crossing signal coordination - \$150,000

Parker is requesting a letter of support to accompany the applications.

Motion: Olivier made a motion, seconded by Munson, to authorize a letter of support for three applications.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0

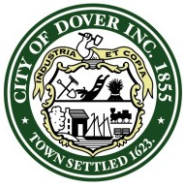
12. Item 3F from agenda – Administrative items - membership

Speidel explained that Dustin Gray, currently a full member, is looking to step back in his role and David Gray, currently an alternate, would like to step up to a full member of the Commission. This will go to the appointments committee for review and approval.

Parker asked if it would be appropriate to have Citizens Forum at the beginning of the agenda moving forward. All agreed that this would make sense.

Motion: Parker made a motion, seconded by Munson, to move Citizens Forum to the top of the TAC agenda.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0



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13. Item 5 from agenda – Member Comments

Parker stated that the Capital Improvements Plan has been completed at the staff level. The City Manager is preparing a presentation for the Planning Board and Council in October. Some of the items in the new plan include prioritizing Spur Road improvements, putting Piscataqua Road improvements into the plan, continue to work on the Elm Street neighborhood, and adding a reconstruction project for Court Street with Union Street and Middle Street as recommended in the transportation chapter of the master plan.

Weston requested a sign with arrows at the intersection of Main Street, Central Avenue, and Second Street indicating which direction each lane should go. Speidel noted that there is an existing sign, but it is faded and should be replaced.

Weston stated that she had several requests to allow left turns from Central Avenue onto Broadway. Parker stated that there were configuration issues at this intersection, and noted that if a vehicle is turning left it will back up traffic behind it, potentially back to the train tracks.

Weston asked if there should be a one-way sign across from the Janetos parking lot to prevent drivers from taking a left onto Main Street. Speidel said that staff would look at it; however, there are several arrows, parked cars and other clear indicators that traffic is one way in this location.

14. Confirm Next Meeting Date

Parker recalled that the Commission had discussed having meetings every other week.

Motion: Dennis Gray made a motion, seconded by Munson, to hold meetings every other month.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0

The next meeting is scheduled for November 27th, at 6:00 pm.

15. Adjournment

Motion: Parker made a motion, seconded by Munson, to adjourn.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.