TOWN OF NEWMARKET NEW HAMPSHIRE

Public Transportation Advisory Committee

December 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Town Council Chambers
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Present: Mike Hoffman, Austin Johnson, Madeleine Faust, Sönke Dornblut (Town Council Rep.), Bart McDonough (Director of Planning & Community Development), Colin Lentz (SRPC Senior Transportation Planner), Mark Davie (SRPC Regional Planner)
Absent:

Sönke Dornblut opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. [time on DCAT 02:30]

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Minutes

a. Review of Minutes: November 13, 2024

Action

Motion: **Mike Hoffman** moved to approve the November 13, 2024 minutes.
Second: **Sönke Dornblut**
Discussion: None
Vote: **Approved 4-0-0**

3. Regular Business [time on DCAT 04:30]

a. Master Plan: Discussion relative to transportation chapter goals

Colin introduced the draft vision and goals, with some relevant points gathered from the energy chapter.
Madeleine highlighted the second goal in the vibrancy section, suggesting to change the word "linger" in the goal: "Increase space for people to linger in areas with storefronts." Discussion ensued on a synonym to replace that, such as "congregate" or "socialize." Discussion continued regarding the meaning of "increase space." It was suggested to possibly change the beginning to "maximize space," or "increase opportunities." The wording was confirmed to be changed to "intentionally incorporate public spaces that incurs social interaction."
Colin pointed out that the highlighted portions in the draft goals document were the areas he thought might need to change, and that after tonight's meeting they will proceed in putting together a full draft chapter.
Mike recommended that the first goal of "Maintain and expand downtown walkability" should have "downtown" removed from it. There was a board consensus.
Discussion ensued regarding wording specifics of the introduction "Vision" paragraph, including but not limited to: removing the highlighted second to last sentence; removing

the word “multi-modal” from this section but incorporating the term elsewhere, changing the word “expanding” to “evolving” in the second sentence; restructuring the last sentence that addresses parking such as adding that it will be “strategically located.”
Bart suggested under the “Connectivity” section, to change it from specifically “Rockingham Rail Trail,” to more generally “existing trail networks” instead.
Discussion ensued further regarding reworking the “Connectivity” section, such as having a different order of the goals and sub goals; addressing any other modes of transportations by removing the word “non-motorized” from the first goal in order to cover all types; further adding wording that addresses balancing different modes; adding a goal regarding bus services; adding wording that addresses off-street pedestrian connections between new and existing commercial properties.
Bart reminded the board that more specifics will be incorporated and discussed for the implementation matrix section later, and that this document is just the vision section that serve as an outline.
Discussion continued for the “Accessibility” section goals, including to move the goal concerning zero crashes to the “Resiliency” section, and further exploring what goals “Accessibility” should address. **Colin** recommended that he and **Mark** could revisit how to apply the goals to the Transportation chapter, similar to how the Housing chapter addressed them differently. Discussion continued for possibly adding a goal to the “Accessibility” section, or as a general goal or statement for the chapter, to “strategically evolve legacy transportation systems for modern needs.” For the goal related to improving parking, it was discussed to have a goal be to develop a way to incentivize strategic shared parking, to reevaluate the parking regulation criteria, and to broadly have the goal to develop a town wide parking plan that incorporates public-private partnership. For the “Affordability” section, it was consensus that the goals were satisfactory, and to add a goal to the effect of expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure. For the “Resiliency” section, it was discussed if some of the goals would be better suited in the Community Facilities chapter, and to revisit this section further. It was also recommended to not limit the goal of “keep nature part of downtown experience,” to not just be downtown but a part of the whole town.

<u>4. Other Business</u> [time on DCAT 2:04:00]

a. Topics of Interest and items to discuss at the next meeting (January 8, 2024)
Sönke mentioned that there had been a resident who expressed concern with accessing the transportation network from the Wadleigh Falls Senior Housing. That development has a large population of non-drivers as many of them have aged in place there, with there also being no sidewalks leading to the development, and noted that the Route 7 On Demand Service stops just short of including this development as a possible option.
Discussion continued that Newmarket can no longer receive 5307 funding for transportation, as of the last census, however 5311 funding is available and could be used. It could be explored for the possibility of some type of on demand bus for the entirety or at least the majority of Newmarket.
It was board consensus that this would be a good opportunity for increasing availability and access to the population of Wadleigh Falls Senior Housing residents, and to see if it results in an increase in users of the service as a trial basis.

Action

Motion: **Mike Hoffman** motioned to recommend the service extension of the Route 7 On Demand Service to the Wadleigh Falls Senior Housing to Town Council.
Second: **Madeleine Faust**
Discussion: **Austin** confirmed that they keep track and would be able to get the data of the amount of users of the service. **Sönke** also clarified that the funding source ends next year, so that this is an immediate solution that we can then work off of. **Madeleine** asked if somebody would work with the community for awareness of the service being an option. **Bart** recommended that a letter can be sent to all residents or flyers could be put up as well.
Vote: **Approved 4-0-0**

Sönke recommended having a member of the Wadleigh Falls Senior Housing community to come to either the January or February meeting to discuss their experiences, issues, and needs with transportation.
Discussion also included how Exeter is in a similar place with also exploring expanding public transportation options.

5. Adjourn [time on DCAT 2:27:18]

Action

Motion: **Mike Hoffman** moved to adjourn at 9:25 PM.
Second: **Austin Johnson**
Discussion: None
Vote: **Approved 4-0-0**

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Respectfully submitted,
Bridgette Grotheer
Land Use Administrator

DCAT:
https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekkdEeRsk0JHQVHAvKJVka7_5VjxKP/videos