



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Public Transportation Advisory Committee

September 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

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

Absent:

Bart McDonough opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

[time on DCAT 03:05]

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Officer Appointments

[time on DCAT 03:38]

Discussion ensued that the appointments would be until March, and then could be revisited.

Action

Motion: Madeleine Faust motioned to appoint Sönke Dornblut as Chair.

Second: Mike Hoffman

Discussion: None

Vote: 4-0

Action

Motion: Austin Johnson motioned to appoint Madeleine Faust as Vice-Chair.

Second: Mike Hoffman

Discussion: None

Vote: 4-0

The members continued to introduce themselves and their interests for being on the committee.

3. Regular Business

[time on DCAT 12:50]

Bart provided a brief introduction of the topics to be covered tonight.

a. Road Program Plan overview and current status

Lyndsay explained that this is a roadway management plan that projects out 10 years.

SRPC helped develop this in Fall 2022, assessing road conditions such as cracks and

frost heaves. It then gives it a pavement condition index, or PCI, score. Those scores are

taken to prioritize which roads need to be resurfaced based on the PCI ranking, and also used for budgeting. There is flexibility to adjust the plan if the committee decides to.

b. Infrastructure Program update

Lyndsay explained that this is more specific to sidewalks, such as sidewalk expansion and connectivity. There was a study completed in 2019 by Underwood Engineering. Currently there is an expansion being worked on at South Main Street and Grant Road, which had been identified by this study. Piscassic and Salmon Street are others that will come up in the near future. Roughly half of those segments recommended in the 2019 study have been installed to date.

Colin introduced himself as discussion ensued regarding the street and sidewalk studies.

Colin explained that emphasis is usually on vehicular traffic, but roads can be designed to make sidewalks more comfortable and useful so that they are safe. For example, they can be built wider or with a buffer between the road traffic.

c. Master Plan's Transportation Chapter introduction and update

Colin continued that the data for the chapter will all be updated, including traffic and vehicle counts. There is also a new tool using TomTom data for the count data, which also helps gather origin and destination information. It was also mentioned that at the Master Plan discussion this upcoming Saturday, they will have a table there to guide discussions on transportation concerns, and where people would like to walk or ride their bikes if they could, using maps to guide discussion.

Bart added that for the update, it is ultimately the Planning Board that will adopt the final product. This committee is the team to lead the transportation chapter and create the first draft to present to Planning Board.

It was consensus for timelines to have the data gathered that needs updating by later fall or early winter, and that a first draft would be likely by early spring.

Colin explained that the main work to be done for the chapter is to update the data, and to update the goals and objectives. **Bart** added that the five overarching themes of the Master Plan are vibrancy, connectivity, accessibility, affordability, and resiliency. There will then be an implementation chapter for addressing the goals.

d. Parking Study introduction and update

Colin introduced that **Jackson**, SRPC Senior GIS Planner (not present tonight), has helped to identify the area for the parking study along with **Bart** and **Lyndsay**. It will need to be completed when students are at UNH, so likely in the spring. It will consist of counting vehicles in the designated areas, and determining turnover rate and how long cars stay in one parking spot. Then, they will see if there were to be new spots striped, how many more spots could potentially be added in town. The data collection is volunteer-based, and SRPC analyzes and maps that data.

Sönke asked if the volunteers have training; **Colin** expressed it is minimal training. There are paper forms or people can use an app to track it. Typically, it is a morning, evening, and weekend for comparison in the study. The study can also give an idea for if and when parking spaces are maxed out.

Austin asked if this study is for a particular goal, or just a general study. **Bart** explained that they wanted to understand parking capacity downtown as it has been highlighted as

an issue through the surveys. **Colin** added that it also lends to economic development of the downtown area.

Discussion ensued regarding more specifics on what the study will provide through the data it gathers.

4. Other Business

[time on DCAT 51:15]

a. Topics to discuss at the next meeting (October 9, 2024)

Bart asked if they could create a schedule for when SRPC would be able to attend and come back for future meetings; **Colin** agreed.

For volunteers for the data collection, **Colin** explained that **Jackson** would add a layer for the map of the existing parking spots, to then create the data collection routes.

Bart asked when they would like to meet next and what topics to cover; **Sönke** agreed that they should meet in October.

Discussion ensued regarding creating a classification system for town streets to reflect traffic levels and how complete of a street it is for future maintenance and added infrastructure improvements.

Colin displayed a map created by SRPC for the region that shows bicycle level of traffic stress as a possible tool. Discussion ensued regarding how this could be updated and added to to show existing trail networks, and as a base to improve on.

Further discussion ensued on demonstration projects, such as testing converting NH 155 between South Street and NH 108 to one-way traffic westbound and adding a sidewalk and parking on the other side, or any other ideas as well from board members or the public.

It was consensus that for next meeting, the topics are to include further information on road classification and continued Master Plan discussion, with priority to the Master Plan.

5. Adjourn

[time on DCAT 1:29:08]

Action

Motion: **Mike Hoffman** moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 PM.

Second: **Sönke Dornblut**

Discussion: none

Vote: 4-0

Respectfully submitted,
Bridgette Grotheer
Land Use Administrator

DCAT:

https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/XSekkdEeRsk0JHqVHAvKJVka7_5VjxKP/videos