



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Public Transportation Advisory Committee

March 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Present: Sönke Dornblut (Town Council Rep), Mike Hoffman, Austin Johnson, Madeleine Faust, Carol Gulla, Lyndsay Butler (Town Engineer), Colin Lentz (SRPC Senior Transportation Planner), Mark Davie (SRPC Regional Planner)

Sönke Dornblut opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Minutes

a. Review of Minutes: February 12, 2025

Action

Motion: **Carol Gulla** motioned to approve the minutes of February 12, 2025, with correction.

Second: **Madeleine Faust**

Discussion: **Carol** noted to correct the end time of the meeting to 8:28 PM.

Vote: **Approved 5-0**

3. Regular Business

a. Master Plan: Discussion relative to transportation chapter

Colin noted that all of the edits were incorporated from board members, and that it was presented to the Master Plan Subcommittee. **Sönke** and **Bart** referred to some notes still in the document, clarifying that it is still in draft form.

Sönke also clarified that SRPC will draft the executive summary; **Bart** recommended that after that, the committee can review the document again for any other changes and review it for April's meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding language to use to refer to the "village core"/downtown area, and information to include and clean up for citations and in the appendix.

b. Parking study update

Mark discussed that the group went out yesterday to confirm the study areas, and they are now searching for volunteers for availability in April. It will be a 20 minute pass through of the route(s), recording license plates to see how long people are staying and who is following the rules based on any posted signage. There will be a pre-meeting for training beforehand, and the study will be one weekday and one weekend day. It was

suggested to seek volunteers with high school students, the UNH Planning Club, as school will still be in session. There will be a flyer drafted for outreach in the coming days. **Sönke** highlighted having clear instructions for volunteers, especially high school students, and also mentioned to be mindful of vacation week at the end of April for the high school. **Bart** added that vacation week might skew the data so it would be good to avoid it.

Mark confirmed that the outreach flyer will be sent by the end of the week.

c. Wayfinding discussion

Bart introduced that wayfinding is coming up in a lot of the Master Plan throughout different chapters, and that they can start looking at examples and begin to think about what we want on town signage. Baseline factors to consider include where to direct people, how to communicate distance, where to put them, what to have on them.

Bart referred to an example from Mansfield, Ohio, included in the packet materials (<https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1544/files/attachment/6109>).

Discussion ensued regarding welcome signs on the town borders, wayfinding for downtown and parking lots, wayfinding for drivers versus pedestrians and bicyclists, highlighting parks and conservation areas, the importance of branding to highlight public spaces, deciding locations, and researching funding.

Mike commented on Portsmouth and Dover having established wayfinding programs to use as examples, and the suggestion of the Newmarket Main Street Corporation to assist with graphic design.

Bart also added to make sure that it is accessible for all abilities and people; **Sönke** added having an electronic version of wayfinding that can be read aloud for accessibility.

Mike raised concern regarding low-level signage as it creates risk of people hitting their heads on it, therefore 7' being a safe standard for height. **Carol** recommended coordinating with New Hampshire Association for the Blind for their expertise and resources.

Mike suggested incorporating different things that are iconic to Newmarket; **Bart** agreed that could work for walking signs but could be distracting for drivers, or on the backside of signs.

Sönke brought up identifying neighborhoods by name for place-making, as has been brought up in the past, and incorporating that in the wayfinding.

Bart mentioned that the town received a \$100,000 grant to continue to look at housing opportunities throughout town, and there will be outreach to each area to gain feedback throughout the neighborhoods of town, suggesting that part of that can be what to call their neighborhood. For the rezoning effort as well, this will assist in having names for the new zoning districts that are representative of the area.

Madeleine spoke to an example she looked into in Wilson, North Carolina, with wayfinding and signs that guide people to the different places in town and makes people want to stay and look around. Their signs used gears on the back of the signs, as the town is famous for manufacturing, to bring out the history of the town.

Bart concluded that the first step would be to create a map of locations for signs, and then they can work on next steps to recommend to Town Council and present a phase plan to them. **Madeleine** added that there is a hierarchy of what to do first, to start with signs for parking, municipal buildings, and then later get more specific.

Further discussion ensued for ideas regarding wayfinding strategies.

d. Updates on other transportation related initiatives

Lyndsay updated that the application for the replacement of the pedestrian bridge was submitted for incorporation into NHDOT's TAP program. There was a regional review, and three projects are getting submitted for this round for this project, Durham, and Farmington, with Newmarket ranking third. The regional ranking prioritization is 20% of the overall project scoring. DOT will be finishing their process this spring, to determine which projects will receive funding for this round.

Lyndsay also noted that she has not heard regarding the road safety audit yet, so they are still working through concepts and recommendations. Once that report is received, they can work with DOT on short-term and long-term implementation of solutions. As it is DOT's roadway, they make the decision on what is implemented, but the town and community can still make preferences known and work with them through the process.

Lyndsay continued that they have a contractor on board for the deck repair of the Ash Swamp Road bridge over the Piscassic River, which requires road closure for roughly four weeks during April. There will be more public notice information forthcoming, especially for residents directly impacted, as well as commuters in surrounding towns. Traffic will likely be detoured from Grant Road to Main Street.

CSX is also working on their railroad crossings, which will cause additional road closures, but the timing of that is not known yet.

Sönke noted that COAST is intending to replace the federal funding that was lost due to reclassification of Newmarket. There is funding for rural transit, but it is limited. Discussion ensued regarding public transit funding.

4. Other Business

a. Topics to discuss at the next meeting (April 9, 2025)

Sönke recommended that road typology and complete streets as a discussion topic, either for April or more likely for May. **Lyndsay** added building a library of pictures of different street types to categorize for typology and discuss.

Madeleine brought up that someone had approached her regarding people constantly going the wrong way on the one-way streets by Beech Street and Salmon Street.

Lyndsay urged that the Police Department should be contacted for enforcement, and that there has been discussion regarding the current signage and pavement markings, but that information they received is that there is not a lack of awareness but that people intentionally ignore it. It has also been discussed to potentially narrow the roadway through resurfacing, removing some of the pavement, creating on-street parking with bump outs, looking at the intersection is designed to discourage wrong way drivers, as some potential ideas. It was discussed to have a future workshop regarding this for neighborhood feedback.

Bart confirmed that next meeting, they will be working with maps, and in May they will look at road typology, and they will start to explore the potential workshop for the New Village neighborhood.

It was also reiterated to volunteer for the parking study in April and respond with any availability, with it recommended to be publicized in the town's weekly newsletter.

5. Adjourn

Action

Motion: Austin Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Second: Mike Hoffman

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 5-0

Respectfully submitted,
Bridgette Grotheer
Land Use Administrator

DCAT:

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