



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Public Transportation Advisory Committee

September 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Present: Sönke Dornblut (Town Council Rep), Madeleine Faust, Carol Gulla, Austin Johnson, Lyndsay Butler (Town Engineer), Bart McDonough (Director of Planning & Community Development), Chief Gregory Jordan (Police Department), Colin Lentz (SRPC Senior Transportation Planner)

Absent: Mike Hoffman

The original order of the agenda was changed and is reflected below in the order taken.

Sönke Dornblut opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Minutes

a. Review of Minutes: July 9, 2025

Action

Motion: Carol Gulla motioned to approve the minutes of July 9, 2025.

Second: Austin Johnson

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 4-0

3. Regular Business

a. Review/Discuss draft parking study report

Colin introduced the parking study findings and recommendations, which was focused on the downtown core, also including Gerry Ave, Rote 108, South Main Street, near the library, and lots on Bay Road, Dame Road, and Beech Street Ext. Overall occupancy was high, especially after 5 PM. The lowest occupancy rates were in the satellite lots. The study was conducted on a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. It was found that there is high demand, and that people are not taking advantage of the satellite lots to walk into town from.

It was discussed that it may be beneficial to meet with the parking directors in Dover and Portsmouth, as they would be good resources, as well as how parking is about behavior management before revenue generation to incentivize drivers to park in the underutilized areas, such as a progressive pricing model.

Recommendations included: outreach to better understand user behavior; mapping out where metered parking could be and asking for public feedback through signs with QR codes in the areas that could be impacted; having more locations to securely lock bikes in the downtown

area, reconfiguration of the parking spots; exploring phone apps to collect revenues and be consistent with the surrounding towns; incentivizing shared parking and reducing curb cuts; being mindful of employee and resident parking, as well as deliveries; noting the high expense of building a parking garage; developing wayfinding for the different parking areas.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed recommendations. It was suggested to begin with incentivizing the currently underutilized lots, such as installing EV charging, and exploring ways to make them more attractive, as well as meeting with those also tackling the issue in Dover, Portsmouth, Rochester, and/or Somersworth to gain perspective from them. Marketing and data collection was also suggested over a longer period of time to understand parking behaviors.

Chief Jordan reported that the people that the parking enforcement officer typically finds that are staying in a spot all day are residents that live in the apartments on Main Street. Additionally, they have also been doing research on metered parking and changing the ordinance, as the current system is archaic. They have also talked with surrounding towns and cities to gain their perspectives on having metered parking. It was also urged that parking behavior will not change unless there is an incentive.

Bart also added if there is opportunity to add more supply by restriping that that could be explored; **Chief Jordan** agreed that there are opportunities, but that the parking ordinance would still need to be updated, which they are actively working on redrafting. It was noted that for the metering, some companies take a certain amount of money upfront and then from there the town keeps the revenue, or others do not take any money upfront but then take a percentage of the revenue.

Chief Jordan confirmed that he can share the information that they have researched so far.

Sönke urged that the marketing of parking changes would be important to residents if changes were to occur.

Discussion also included setting certain times and days for metered parking in order to be mindful of both visitor, business, and resident needs.

There was consensus to move forward with some more information gathering for public feedback, speaking with surrounding communities and how they approached parking, and to explore more wayfinding and signage.

b. COAST Route 7

Sönke reported that COAST is proposing changes as longer range funding has been obtained in order to expand service. Their new model is to eliminate designated stops, where people would call for a pick up instead with a price of \$3 each way. People would need to call the day before in order to reserve it, but it is open to anyone and is accessible.

Discussion ensued on the proposed change, which would begin on October 1, and the value of having a designated stop in town, especially for the benefit of residents on narrower streets.

It was also noted that exact change will be needed, but that they will also be selling punch cards for \$30, or ten trips.

c. Transportation/Traffic challenges in New Village

Bart suggested forming a project group in order to help organize and plan an event for the neighborhood for outreach and feedback.

d. Road Safety Audit discussion

Lyndsay noted that there are draft concepts that are being discussed with DOT and SRPC, as well as opportunities to pilot different temporary ideas to see their effectiveness. That would go into place in the spring.

4. Other Business

a. Items to discuss at the next meeting (October 8, 2025)

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridgette Grotheer
Land Use Administrator

DCAT:

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