



TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Public Transportation Advisory Committee

November 12, 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)

Absent: Mike Hoffman

Sönke Dornblut opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Minutes

a. Review of Minutes: September 10, 2025

Action

Motion: Carol Gulla motioned to approve the minutes of September 10, 2025.

Second: Austin Johnson

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved 4-0

3. Regular Business

a. Road Safety Audit discussion

Lyndsay introduced that the Road Safety Audit was conducted by NHDOT, with VHB hired as the engineering consultant, to assess NH 108 and its intersections at Bennett Way and Terrace Drive. Review of the document ensued, as can be found at <https://newmarketnh.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2363/files/attachment/6503>.

The report summarizes the data collection and site visit, noting that it is still in draft form and that it has been reviewed by the town with comments sent back to NHDOT. SRPC has also provided comments back to NHDOT. Comments included helping to identify town goals for the area, and general recommendations.

Review of the recommendations from the report for improving safety continued. Short-term options included clarifying signage, adding lighting, improving visibility, and adjusting pavement markings. Intermediate and long-term options included more complex reconfiguring of the roadway, with different specific concepts detailed in the report, which would require planning and budgeting for. They are currently assessing some pilot options to implement as soon as April/ May 2026, such as widening the sidewalk and eliminating some of the turn lanes by using jersey barriers and adding refuge islands, and consolidating driveway access along the corridor, with the hope to help pedestrians feel safer and to slow traffic.

Discussion ensued regarding the specific recommendations in the report, such as the proposal of a roundabout as a long-term option and how a large footprint is needed for truck traffic.

Kim Hamlin, 832 Bennett Way, spoke regarding how the sidewalk ends on Bennett Way near building 12 of the apartments, and how it would be helpful if the sidewalk extended further toward Hersey Lane. **Ms. Hamlin** continued how on Exeter Road, the sidewalk ends at the railroad crossing, unless you cross the road at the end of Bennett Way to the other side of Exeter Road, agreeing that a refuge island and a better marked crossing would help, as well as a pedestrian light that flashes when people are crossing.

Madeleine recommended signage regarding the sidewalk ending at the train tracks for that side of the road so that people that are not familiar are directed to cross. **Sönke** also noted how the first 30 MPH sign when driving into town gets obstructed by plants.

Lyndsay confirmed that the blinking pedestrian sign is going to be a measure that is implemented regardless of the other recommendations that are piloted. It was discussed that they may install a light in the middle, either from a wire above or as a light post if a permanent island is to be installed.

Lyndsay also confirmed that for the sidewalk improvement plan, the next segment on the list to be constructed is to connect Bennett Way to Hersey Lane once there is funding.

Discussion ensued regarding implementation of the short-term measures in the spring, with confirmation that VHB and SRPC would have data collection to assess the solutions. There will also be community outreach to property owners to discuss what they are willing to pilot in terms of shared driveways. It has also been discussed between departments to find solutions that will not cause physical obstructions for snow removal in the winter, and are more of a visual obstruction to alert drivers.

Madeleine suggested having QR codes to gain feedback from pedestrians for data collection.

Austin asked if bike lanes have been considered for the area. **Lyndsay** confirmed that it is mentioned in the report, and there is opportunity to extend facilities in the future in town, such as making the sidewalk extra-wide in specific areas to accommodate.

b. Revolving Discussion Items

[1] Public Transportation

Sönke discussed how COAST is concerned the door-to-door service and whether it needs an age restriction, or with parent/guardian permission for under 18-year-olds, and that they are looking for feedback.

Discussion ensued on the question of age restrictions and liability concerns, as well as the parent/guardian permission adding an extra layer of work for COAST, and it being hard to police. It was also suggested that if there were community stops then that could be utilized for minors instead of the door-to-door service.

Sönke also discussed exploring a regular connector between Newmarket and Durham, as well as organizing trips to set shopping destinations for older Newmarket residents that do not drive.

Carol noted that there is a shopping shuttle for some seacoast communities that is well received. Discussion ensued on examples in other towns, and how the shuttle could be supported/funded. **Sönke** noted that he will bring it up for discussion at Town Council and contact communities with similar programs to gain feedback.

[2] Road Typology/Complete Streets

Lyndsay noted that she and **Bart** are meeting soon to discuss the road standards and how it will be incorporated and codified, and that they will plan to bring it back for further discussion in December.

[3] Parking Infrastructure

[4] Signing/Wayfinding

Sönke noted that there is some funding available in the budget to put out an RFP for signage and wayfinding, for around \$20,000, for a conceptual layout and suggestions for placement, and that **Bart** can discuss this more in December for how the RFP can be structured.

4. Other Business

a. Items to discuss at the next meeting (December 10, 2025)

Discussion ensued regarding Central Street and how people often travel it the wrong way, and how that could be a further future discussion for improvements. **Lyndsay** agreed that it has been discussed by the town for improving traffic flow in the area, and as an area for further redevelopment along with utilities upgrades in the future.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridgette Grotheer
Land Use Administrator

DCAT:

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