

City of Claremont Master Plan
Transportation Subcommittee
Meeting - March 6, 2009 - 8 a.m.

Draft Minutes

Present: Alan Grigsby, Dennis Osgood, Jr., Tom Ford, Lisa Paquette, Steve Picano and DPW Director Bruce Temple

The committee asked Bruce to meet with them because of his position with the city and role on the Claremont Traffic Advisory Committee would provide a needed perspective to the transportation component of the Master Plan.

Bruce described efforts to create bike path marking along roads with enough width such as the recently completed Charlestown Road repaving project. He has installed "Share The Road" signs along that route but said that the space can't be designated a bike path because it lacks the proper width. He said he plans to paint a similar line on the edge of the road when Maple Avenue is repaved. Bruce pointed out design of bike paths at intersections is tricky and requires proper space. There is a national standard for the road width to accommodate bike paths.

He advocated RV, biking and pedestrian trails and suggested the committee speak to Recreation Director Scott Hausler.

Bruce explained that state roads within the "urban compact" are cared for by the city under a financial agreement with the state.

Bruce recommended that the committee include things in the Master Plan that have measurable results such as designated bike paths, nasty intersections, and that the city finish developing a truck route.

Bruce wondered if there was enough traffic to warrant a Washington Street to Chestnut Street connector.

Following the meeting with Mr. Temple the committee approved the minutes of the February 20 meeting by acclamation.

Dennis said he thought we should include in our section a recommendation that zoning changes along Washington Street be accomplished.

In writing the plan it was decided to use Master Plan Survey results, mention traffic counts, and develop a mission statement. Advocating a truck route and the resolution of present and future Washington Street traffic problems was also endorsed.

Alan said he saw the transportation section like a sandwich with an introduction/statement followed by a list of the issues and ideas formulated by the committee and then a conclusion.

Lisa said that these ideas need to be integrated with other objectives in the plan by the Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC).

The group endorsed the concept of an emergency route around the major intersections on Washington Street which could be blocked by a serious accident.

Steve said the committee should identify the need and not necessarily the solution to an issue.

The importance of the downtown in the eyes of those taking the Master Plan Survey shows the need to keep trucks out of the central business district in order for it to develop properly, Dennis said.

A list of ideas for the report will be outlined at the next meeting.

Adjourned at 10 a.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 13, 2009, 8 a.m. in the conference room at:
Community Alliance Transportation Services
940 John Stark Highway
Newport, NH 03773

Respectfully submitted by:
Alan Grigsby, chair