

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF NASHUA CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

May 23, 2022
Room 208
6:00PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Scott LeClair, Chair of the Planning Board and Capital Improvement Committee, in person and via Zoom at 6:00PM, and terms of the virtual meeting were reviewed by the Chair. Mr. LeClair explained the Committee's procedures explained how public access is available in-person and via telephone/Zoom.

Introduction of Members Present: (Roll Call)

Scott LeClair
Charlie Budris
Bob Canaway
John Griffin
Rose Evans
Ald. Jette
Matt Sullivan

Staff: Scott McPhie

Absent: Larry Szetela, Ald. Comeau (Alt), Mayor Donchess

Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Matthew Sullivan -The March 14, 2022 meeting minutes were distributed via-e-mail. The Committee determined they needed additional time to review the minutes, therefore tabling their consideration until the next meeting.

Presentation

Economic Development – Timothy Cummings, Economic Development Director

Matthew Sullivan- explained that Director Cummings had a scheduling conflict and would be unable attend the evening's meeting.

The project before the Committee is from the Economic Development Division, the West Pearl Street Streetscaping Project. The goal is to coordinate this project with the 2023-2027 NHDOT Ten Year Plan project for the reconfiguration/squaring of the Walnut Street Oval. The connection between these two projects may involve a change in direction of traffic flow on West Pearl Street and would be coordinated together. This project was presented to the Aldermanic Committee on Infrastructure in December of 2021. Due to the time sensitivity of the project in

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conjunction with the Walnut Street Oval it is imperative to present the project to the Committee here tonight.

The overall objectives of this project are to:

- Enhance vehicle pedestrian safety
- Enhance ADA Compliance
- Add Green Space
- Implement Better lighting
- Enhance Public space
- Create a Gateway & destination for the downtown and performing arts center

In the event the Walnut Street Oval reconfiguration process is implemented, these West Pearl Street improvements are designed such that a modification to traffic flow could be implemented.

As contemplated today, but subject to final design, the project results in the following changes:

- A reduction of parking spaces along the right-of-way from 37 spaces down to 14
- ADA parking places will be increased from 1 to 2
- 3 current street trees will be increased to 41 trees
- Increased pedestrian and public realm area

Gateway markings or monuments will be implemented at each end of the street to enhance the approach to the area. Enhancements will complement the nearby performing arts center. The cost for the project is \$1,800,000 and involves substantial utility work and complete reconstruction of the right of way. If approved, the construction could begin as early as August of this year and may be completed in the next 6 to 12 months. Final project design drawings will be available as early as next week.

Matthew Sullivan- indicated he would be abstaining from member voting this evening due to his position as Community Development Director.

Alderman Jette -asked why they would be reducing the amount of parking spaces. Matthew Sullivan explained in order to accommodate the reduction in the traveled way cross section width and increase in pedestrian/public realm area, a reduction in parking is proposed. Mr. LeClair explained the end result of the additional work on West Pearl Street will be two travel lanes. Matthew Sullivan agreed. Alderman Jette questioned the road diet analysis. Matthew Sullivan explained the diet here is not a reduction in lanes but a decrease in overall traveled/paved way width.

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John Griffin- asked Matthew Sullivan to speak about the Walnut street oval project

Matthew Sullivan-explained that the scope of the project is reconfiguring the Walnut Street Oval in favor of square the street grid and linking streets, therefore improving current circulation issues. Traffic studies are ongoing and future traffic data will be available to inform any circulation changes that are proposed.

John Griffin -asked if the traffic flow on East Pearl Street will be modified. Matthew Sullivan responded that traffic study will be performed before any modifications are proposed, but changes to East Pearl are more unlikely.

Bob Canaway- asked if the City explored reducing the West Pearl Street Corridor to one lane.

Matthew Sullivan -responded that due to current traffic volumes it is not proposed and further traffic study and circulation modification would be required.

Scott LeClair -added this will be a transformative project.

John Griffin- spoke about the proposed School Street/High Street multi-family project and the impact to parking capacity.

Matthew Sullivan –explained how parking capacity is be provided through the use of structured parking assets and wayfinding.

Matthew Sullivan- reviewed the project ranking criteria and explained that the objective of the meeting is for the Committee to rank the proposed project in the context of other FY2023 CIP projects.

Mr. Griffin- asked if the Streetscape project can be implemented without authorization of the Walnut Street Oval improvements.

Mr. Sullivan- said that both projects can be constructed independently but the goal is to implement both projects in coordination.

The ranking vote was taken by Roll call:

Scott LeClair ranked the project B
Charlie Budris ranked the project A
Bob Canaway ranked the project B
John Griffin ranked the project B

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Rose Evans ranked the project B
Ald. Jette ranked the project A
Matt Sullivan abstained

Matthew Sullivan- calculated a 23.33 score based on seven member voting and a normalization of the average vote which would equate to an overall B-1 ranking based on the ranking of other projects.

Alderman Jette-made the motion to amend FY2023 CIP to add the West Pearl Street Landscape project and send a positive recommendation to the Nashua City of Planning Board, ranking the project B-1. Seconded by Charlie Budris.

A roll call vote was taken:

Scott LeClair- Yes
Charlie Budris - Yes
Bob Canaway - Yes
John Griffin - Yes
Rose Evans - Yes
Ald. Jette - Yes
Matt Sullivan- Abstained

Motion passes 6-0-1. Matthew Sullivan abstained.

Other Business

To be determined.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Alderman Jette, 6:30 PM. the motion passed unanimously.

Scott McPhie, City of Nashua