

Town of Concord
Transportation Advisory Committee
Charge

Background

Our long-range plan, **Envision Concord Bridge to 2030**, lists as Big Idea 3, *a strong need to increase the physical and social connectivity of isolated residents, including seniors, and those living in denser housing areas outside of easy walking distance (1/2 mile) of the village centers. There is also a need to expand non-automobile options for students and teens to get around town to reduce congestion and carbon emissions while increasing their connection to the town's cultural, recreational, and commercial resources. The decentralization of residents, the need to support the village centers to retain independent businesses, and the desire to provide environmentally sustainable low-carbon mobility choices for residents and visitors all create opportunities to consider transportation across multiple needs and strategies. Innovative mobility solutions may also address transportation needs of visitors to Concord and the increased congestion and parking demand resulting from visitors and through-town commuter traffic. Town-owned vehicles could be multi-purpose serving different needs and different segments of the population at different times.* (**Envision Concord Bridge to 2030**, pages 79-81)

Transportation is a federal, state, regional and local issue, and all have impact on Concord. However, this Committee will focus on local sustainable transportation policy. As such it will be a Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) appointed by the Town Manager and working closely with the Select Board to develop policies which support innovative multi-modal actions. The TAC will collect transportation relevant data available from town and school departments, developing policies supporting identified annual actions. The TAC will annually incorporate the goals reflected at Town Meeting in all its planning recommendations.

Because transportation solutions will evolve over time as technologies, town resources, and town and school needs evolve, this committee will annually adjust, initiate and report out policies which reflect changes and growth. There may be important subcommittees focused on specific modes of local transportation, such as bicycle policies, which may include education and safety, recreational and commuter bike-path planning, roadway bicycle use, Bruce Freeman Rail Trail initiatives and other bicycle access issues. Pedestrian issues, will also be addressed including sidewalk planning and priorities, creating pedestrian-friendly areas, including the needs of students, seniors, and those with disabilities. The TAC has the authority to establish subcommittees as needed.

As a first step in this process, the Select Board suggests the formation of a Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) as a committee of the Town Manager to:

- 1) Review the and evaluate application of tools (e.g. Rail Trail Initiatives, Complete Streets, Parking Studies, Cut Through Study, Traffic Management Group determinations, School Transportation Needs..) in meeting **Envision Concord Bridge to 2030's** local transportation goals (See Section 3, pages 80-81)

<https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15250/Final-Envision-Concord-Plan-7-30-18-Full-Version-79MB>.

- 2) Assess the transportation concerns and ideas identified by existing town committees
- 3) Explore and recommend innovative approaches and revenue sources for both new ways of local mobility as well as maintaining and enhancing existing infrastructure. such as state, regional and federal funds, public-private partnerships, grants, etc.
- 4) Explore multi-model transportation options within and through Concord.
- 5) Balance the opportunities for transportation throughout Concord with our goals for, environmental sustainability, stewardship of town historic and cultural resources, support for economic vitality, and the needs of a population of diverse incomes and ages, including public and private school communities.
- 6) Make recommendations as to how the Town can enhance local transportation actions with existing resources
- 7) Explore ways to benefit from neighboring communities, regional and state efforts to achieve similar goals.
- 8) Develop a public education and input process

Membership

The Transportation Advisory Committee shall be comprised of 7 members appointed by the Town Manager, with Select Board approval. The term of office shall be three years.

Membership shall be as follows:

Town Manager or their designee (ex officio, non-voting)

School Superintendent or their designee (ex officio, non-voting)

Seven Town Residents (with an interest in: Walkability and need for cross town transportation, transportation environmental impact, accessibility of multi-modal transportation options, business and transit oriented issues, recreational and organized bicycling activities, specialized knowledge of transportation planning)

The Committee shall elect a chair, keep minutes of its deliberations, observe the Open Meeting and Public Records law, the Conflict of interest Law and all other applicable laws and regulations of the Commonwealth as well as all relevant Bylaws and Administrative Policies of the Town fostering a free and open discussion of ideas. The Committee may form up to three subcommittees to address specific issues (e.g. bicycles); the Town Manager may appoint members to the subcommittees that are not members of the full Committee.

Duties and Responsibilities Analyze goals and report to the Town Manager and Select Board with specific recommendations that can be implemented to support the goals. Report progress to the Select Board and Town Manager on an ongoing basis.