CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BIKE/PED NETWORK BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026, 6:00 pm
City Hall Conference Room A
1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth NH
For the Zoom recording: https://youtu.be/3HLLrkV7wa4

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER at 6:02 pm by Councilor Annie Hopkins, Chair.**

2. **ATTENDANCE:** Chair Annie Hopkins, Vice Chair Matt Glenn (VIA Zoom), Tyler Garzo, Bill Lyons, Dawn Przychodzien, Robin Lurie-Meyerkopf, Patrick Daley, Colleen Garcia. Staff: DPW Director Peter Rice, Acting Deputy Fire Chief for Prevention Chad Putney. Excused: Stephen Longstaffe, Stella Whitehouse, Ryan Harper, Annie Poubeau,

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 1, 2026 – Following a motion by Garzo seconded by Lurie-Meyerkopf, Garzo asked the committee to approve the following adjustment:** To strike the following comment attributed to Garzo: Garzo noted the value of the tool for making Complete Streets guidelines more realistic. On a motion by Garzo and Lurie-Meyerkopf the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

4. **PRESENTATIONS – None.**
5. **WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

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a. Connectivity Working Group

Lyons reported that the group including members of the Sustainability Committee met and is beginning to prepare illustrative ideas for the shuttle work group, including examples of a possible loop: 1-way, 2-way, continuous loop. Including bicycle and pedestrian connections to the Greenway, public transit, CIP proposals, parking.

The group is helping to make the case for the benefits of enabling a bike/pedestrian network by developing presentations (with fact sheets or slides) on the following topics:

- Greenhouse gas emission reduction (key goal of the Climate Action Plan) as presented by Patrick Dailey at the October committee meeting
- Public Health benefits (December meeting)
- Housing benefits (for January meeting)
- Parking demand reduction benefits (February meeting

b. **Complete Streets**

Garzo reported that the first joint P&TS/Bike & Pedestrian sub-group meeting to "poke at" the City's Complete Street Policy is scheduled for Tues Nov 10 at 9 am in the DPW Training Room (680 Peverly Hill Rd.) and via Zoom. Garzo asked about the Cate Street project, which Director Rice addressed later in the meeting.

c. **Community Outreach**

Chair Hopkins reported the success of the tabling effort by the group at the Rec Dept. Family Fun Fall Fest at Community Campus on Oct 24. The group is now working with Communications Director Bohanan on a "Just One Trip" campaign encouraging residents to walk, bicycle or take public transit at least once per week rather than driving for trips under 3 miles. The estimated impact would be reudicng emissions by the equivalent of taking 16 cars of the road for a year.

Bike Bus – the sub group is collecting input and emails from elementary and middle school families. Many in favor but others concerned about safety (Dondero School students not biking on Route 1) and infrastructure improvements. The goal is to start a pilot program on Fridays in Spring 2027.

Further conversations to engage families are planned for Meet the City Manager monthly events at Portsmouth Public Library (next: November 7, 2026, 10 am to noon).

6. **NEW BUSINESS –**
    a. **November 15 is World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims** – SABR is collaborating with the Bike Walk Alliance to recognize the day by lighting Memorial Bridge (and Dover City Hall) in yellow. The Committee reviewed the draft of a letter to the editor and approved co-signing on a motion by Garzo, seconded by Lyons the committee voted unanimously to co-sign the letter.

7. **OLD BUSINESS –**

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a. **FlashVote and ParentSquare Surveys –**

- FlashVote: Chair Hopkins met with Monte Bohanan, Director of Communications and Community Engagement to discuss the FlashVote options. Targeting a statistically valid cross-section of Portsmouth residents, each FlashVote consists of 5 questions: 4 multiple choice and 1 open-ended. Chair Hopkins has added a Google Doc in the Committee folder for members to make suggestions on the questions.
- ParentSquare: Committee continued discussion on a survey to explore why families drive children to school rather than walk, ride, or bus. A survey to parents through the SAU 52 ParentSquare system would be more targeted. Director Rice suggested that the Committee collaborate with the School Department to leverage bus data they have and incorporate what they'd like to learn. Chair Hopkins asked that a member of the Committee volunteer to take the lead on this initiative.
    - Following up on Whitehouse's previous suggestion of a bus tracker for parents so that bus schedules would be better known and might increase ridership, the TransitPac app covers COAST, C&J, UNH Wildcat public transit but not school buses, so there is an opportunity – also for discussion with the School Department. The MyRide app for the Middle School is not currently operating.

b. **CIP Request Review** – Director Rice walked through the requests as reviewed by the City Council subcommittee. The next CIP public comment opportunities are:

- **26**-7 Already included in the FY '27 budget
- **26**-10 Audible crosswalk signals – already operating.
- **26**-18 Professional transportation manager: Jillian Harris in Transportation Planner in that department and Eric Eby at DPW is Transportation Engineer and Planner.
- **26**-20 Maplewood Avenue request for a protected bike lane and connection to the Greenway and North Mill Pond is included in the larger Maplewood Avenue Project plan, but a large utility project has to be completed first. The project will be revisited in a public meeting but there is no definite date yet.
- **26**-21 Maplewood Ave. crossing safety request is included in the Maplewood-Rte 1 Bypass-RR crossing project.
- **26**-26 Request for tactical urbanism traffic-calming projects. As the White Heron demonstration project showed, there is great value in these as budget allows.
- **Banfield & Jones Sidewalk requests** – will be considered at the Nov 12 Planning Board CIP meeting. There is no budget currently assigned for these and staff want to evaluate. Both are identified as capital projects but no dates or priorities have been assigned.
- **Woodbury Avenue repaving** – part of annual Paving Management budget,
- **New Franklin Street and Gateway treatment project advancing but delayed work on Edmond Ave**., which allowed that project to be separated and advanced.

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8. INFORMATIONAL

a. **Police monthly collision report** – Deputy Police Chief reported to P&TS that there were two vehicle incidents in September: one involving a scooter on the sidewalk at the entrance to Applebee's/Woodbury Ave. and one involving a jogger at the driveway exit from Great Bay Community College to Corporate Drive at Pease. Minor injuries.

b. **Cate Street Bridge** – NH DOT held a public meeting on October 20. This project follows a set Locally Managed Project (LPA) process where the DOT requests public input without staff comment. Public concerns include: lighting, pedestrian access, turning radius and road width. Garzo asked about the increase on what Urban SDK considers a "slow street" from 20' wide to 23'. Director Rice noted that Cate Street is an alternate route for fire and emergency access to the hospital. Next steps: NHDOT draft for public comment, then design. Glenn urged the inclusion of a sidewalk and Cottage Street intersection crosswalk.

c. Market & Russell intersection – Dir Rice reported this is another NHDOT LPA project and that a public input meeting is planned for December 16.

d. **Bike and Pedestrian OpenGov request form** – The "Report a Traffic Concern" form is now live. View the drop-down menu under the "Residents" tab at the top of the City homepage, then click on "Report a Traffic Concern." The form offers a choice of issues: Road Safety and Traffic Compliance, and a selection of sub-categories for each issue. The intent is an easier tool for reporting traffic-specific issues separate from Click'n Fix road condition concerns such as pot-holes. Basic requests – like sweeping the sidewalk on Market Street under I-95 – will be handled immediately while others may need an action including review by the Committee. Director Rice said the request form will be publicized. Like Click'n Fix, the process helps DPW to improve the bike/pedestrian network by identifying issues for staff to determine which are quick fixes and which as capital improvements.

e. **Shuttle Task Force** – Chair Hopkins reported on the first two meetings of the task force, working on determining the convenience barriers to access and others' experience that it takes 2 years to change behavior. The VIA municipal shuttle transportation vendor made a presentation for discussion about core shuttle routes to complement existing public transit, potentially extending COAST fixed routes and creating a central app for all public transit. Deputy City Manager Carl Webber proposed a 15-minute circuit incorporating all City parking lots that would operate as a pilot on Fridays from 5 pm to 1 am during peak tourism season. The group is also considering the Desmond Study on parking volumes and establishing behavior that would adopt parking father out and shuttling to downtown for daily commuters. Chair Hopkins commented that the City could spend the $50,000 budgeted on a study or "to do something." Challenges include cost (VIA's pilot estimate for the South End several years ago was $1 million; making multimodal transit work means shifting behavior by raising parking fees and eliminating discounts. The City Council has to choose from among many priorities for spending. Chair Hopkins noted the inclusion represented in the group: Bike/Pedestrian, Sustainability, Planning, DPW, Parking, Pease, Shipyard, PHA and both COAST and C&J. PSA: Anyone can ride the UNH Wildcat bus – not just UNH students.

f. **Fleet Street Project –** A public informational meeting is planned for November 30 and work is scheduled to start on December 7 between Congress and Hanover.

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9. **ADJOURNMENT –** On a motion by Lyons seconded by Lurie-Meyerkopf, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:35 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 3, 2026.

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