

# COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

JULY 22, 2020

A meeting of the Committee on Infrastructure was held Wednesday, July 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference.

Chairman O'Brien

As Chairman of the Committee on Infrastructure, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

**a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:**

*To access Zoom, please refer to the agenda or the City's website for the meeting link.*

*To join by phone: 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 824 0147 6367 Password: 221185*

*The public may also view the meeting via Channel 16.*

**b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:**

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, through public postings. Instructions have also been provided on the City of Nashua's website at [www.nashuanh.gov](http://www.nashuanh.gov) and publicly noticed at City Hall and Public Health Department.

**c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:**

If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-821-2049 and they will help you connect.

**d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:**

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting via the methods mentioned above, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. **When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.**

Alderman Schmidt called the roll and asked them to state the reason he or she could not attend, confirmed that they could hear the proceedings, and stated who was present with him or her.

The roll call was taken with 4 members of the Committee on Infrastructure present:

Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Jan Schmidt  
Alderman Ernest Jette

Members not in Attendance: Alderman David C. Tencza

Also in Attendance: Dan Hudson, City Engineer  
Alderman Patricia Klee

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Alderman O'Brien

I am present, I can hear the proceedings and I am alone.

Alderman Lopez

I am present, I can hear the proceedings and I am alone.

Alderman Schmidt

Alderman Jan Schmidt is here, can hear everyone and is alone.

Alderman Jette

I am here, I am alone, I can hear everything and I am obeying the stay-at-home order.

Alderman Schmidt

Mr. Chairman that would be four members who are here; also we have Alderman Klee and Dan Hudson, City Engineer.

Chairman O'Brien

Very good, thank you; and for the record I did hear from Alderman Tencza who has another very important business to attend to this evening and cannot make the meeting and expresses his regrets.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

Chairman O'Brien

To the Clerk, if I may, I forgot for a second but I am going to take out of order O-20-027.

**O-20-027**

Endorser: Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Jan Schmidt  
Alderman Patricia Klee

**AUTHORIZING A LEFT TURN ONLY LANE AT THE INTERSECTION OF WEST PEARL STREET  
AND ELM STREET**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman O'Brien

I did get a request from Alderman Lopez who is the prime sponsor and in case he gets tied up, he asked that we take this out of order. So I thank everybody; Alderman Lopez would you like to comment on your motion?

Alderman Lopez

I can probably let the City Engineer explain a little bit further, but basically I am just supporting the Department of Public Works' efforts to try to improve traffic safety in the area. The Ordinance would allow for a bicycle lane to be included on West Pearl and a turning lane onto Elm Street only. I don't know, the City Engineer, do you have the graphic, because I can share it if you don't.

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Yes I do, do you want me to try to share my screen.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah I think mine was just an initial draft, so yours might be a better idea.

Mr. Hudson

OK so thank you. The proposal here is to do some revised pavement markings on West Pearl Street. We have repaved that street and so it is time to put markings down. In looking at it, we thought it would make more sense to have a short left turn lane to Elm Street. On West Pearl you come across Main Street from East Pearl in two lanes through the signal. But then as you follow down West Pearl when you get down to Walnut it is only one lane. The width is wide west of Elm Street. So at some point you have to drop a lane and it made sense to us to do that at Elm Street. So after you come through Main Street there will be a short section, a double lane and then it will merge into a single lane and then it would carry a single lane down to Walnut Street. As you indicated, that would give us room to put a bike lane in and also reset parking. I'd be happy to answer any questions on that.

Alderman Lopez

I do actually have one just I had submitted this, Mr. Chair, to some of the local businesses nearby and they just wanted to make sure that the traffic engineers had confirmed that coming from the left turn only lane, there's enough clearance for someone to make that turn on to Elm Street. I had confidence, I just want to ask the question on their behalf.

Mr. Hudson

There will be room, as you can see on the graphic, the lane line is close to where to the lane line is today. If it was a larger truck and you had to make it from the through lane, you could still do that, there's no physical barrier. But for the majority of vehicles, passenger cars and small trucks, they'll be able to do that without any issue. We believe this provides clarity and doesn't really change the situation in terms of movements and the same width is provided, it's just restriped in a different format for the majority of traffic.

Chairman O'Brien

Further questions from members of the Committee; I do have one. Mr. Hudson, would you say that the mirror that is in front of the restaurant there, will still be there and can you explain for the public, who probably don't know that the mirror is there how that assists them at this particular intersection. Are you able to speak on that.

Mr. Hudson

Unfortunately I am not very able to speak to that very intelligently. I wasn't aware that there was a mirror there. We have a couple of those around the city. It is for sight distance reasons. I know we are trying to avoid putting new ones up in other places, but the ones that are there we maintain. So my understanding is that it will remain.

Chairman O'Brien

Very good, and if I may take the liberty at this point. There is a mirror there for those that have seen it, if you haven't, it does assist you because of where that building at the corner of West Pearl and Elm immediately on the right where the cursor was just at, it is kind of touch to see and the mirror does assist and allows you to poke your nose out a little bit to take the corner safely. But thank you, Mr. Hudson. Alderman Schmidt do you have something?

Alderman Schmidt

I just wanted to thank you very much for talking about the mirror, I use it every time I take that road. It is time that the striping was changed on that. It's clear that the people who are new on that street don't quite understand, so this will make a big difference for people. Thank you very much.

Chairman O'Brien

OK, thank you Alderman Schmidt. Any other additional questions from members of the Board. Alderman Klee, I have you in the queue Alderman Lopez. Alderman Klee first; Alderman Klee you are muted.

Alderman Klee

Thank you so much. I know I'm not a member of your Board but I did want to be a sponsor on this and I appreciate that this is being done. It is something that is very important I think to kind of even slow the traffic down a little bit. I know coming out of Elm Street which I have done quite often, you really do take your life in your hands as well as coming off of Pearl on to Elm because I think the people on Elm don't realize that those people have to cut in front of you to take a left. And we don't always see each other. And as pointed out by the mirror, I like the mirror, I know the reason they are not putting more up is simply because it doesn't give how close or how far people are and I know that the Directors are a little anxious about those kinds of mirrors. But I do appreciate it being there, it does help me to see that there is something there.

Chairman O'Brien

Objects in the mirror are closer than you think or whatever it is, yes. Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

Just with regard to the mirror it can also be a little disorienting to some drivers. You happen to go at the wrong time of day, then you get the Indiana Jones effect where the sun is just beaming in your eyes in the wrong direction. So that can confuse people a little bit. The way that the striping looks like it would be designed as well, it cuts the traffic on the road in half so that people who are going straight can just continue straight. And for those of you who would be coming down West Pearl to turn on to Elm Street which is not a very large number of people relative to the whole traffic on the road, in my experience, are the only ones that would have to worry about the incoming lane and how that would all be interacted quite as much.

So it basically takes two people going in different directions and puts them in the lane they are supposed to go in. But the way that the lane is designed, if it turns out that it is not a great idea in terms of being able to see around the building and clearance, it wouldn't be that difficult to change that into a straight forward lane that's there and then just turn that into parking or something so that there's enough clearance to see around Greater Nashua's, that's the building on the lower right, to see around their building as you are turning. This is a pretty permanent change in terms of painting on the road, but it is not an irreversible one if we decide that new changes are not working out or there is some unforeseen difficulty.

Alderman Jette

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am favor of this, but I am a little concerned about the striping, you know, forcing people in a left lane who are coming from Main Street or East Pearl Street. The striping pushes them over to the right hopefully. I am somewhat familiar with that design. You know over here in Ward 5 on West Hollis Street, going west as you approach Ledgewood Hills Drive or Gendron Street before that, there's are two lanes coming from Riverside Drive, from the highway and there's a – I can't remember the technical name for it – but kind of a bump out, you know, a striped bump out that encourages people to move into the right lane and reserves the left turning traffic to Gendron and Ledgewood Hills Drive in that left lane. That has caused a lot of problems; people coming from the highway traveling in the left lane which is usually the faster lane. They end up getting confused by that bump out and all of a sudden they have to move over to the right. It has caused some accidents and some near accidents there.

So in this configuration that you've shown us, I am wondering if the striping where it is, is the best place. Should that left turn lane be left turn all the way from Main Street? Or should the striping that encourages people to the right if they are going to go straight, should that be sooner than where it is proposed on your illustration? I am just concerned that people who are going straight won't realize that they've got to get into the right lane until the last minute and now they are turning in front of somebody in the right lane. I'm not sure that what you've got isn't the best way to solve this situation. But I am just bringing it up to make sure you thought about it and what we are doing is the best way. I'm all in favor of the left turn on to Elm Street, the left turn only on to Elm Street lane and putting the bike lane in. I just bring this up so you think about the whole thing ahead of time. Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Mr. Hudson, would you like to ....

Mr. Hudson

Yeah sure, I can address that. Yeah it is certainly not an ideal situation, you know, doing a merge that quickly but it is due to the distance between the intersections and we think that's what we need to do and still maintain the two through lanes from East Pearl. If we find that it doesn't work out well, then that is an option to go back to East Pearl and make one of those a left turn only lane and the other one a through lane. That has a trade off in that now you only have one lane to stack the through vehicles so it would back up further. So I think we are fairly comfortable with this, there's a couple hundred feet, you know, 250 feet or so before the merge would start.

There will be an adjustment period; people have to get used to it. But I think it's a reasonable approach right now. If it turns out it doesn't work well, then there are adjustments that we can make, you know, as suggested.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

OK, thank you Alderman Jette. Any other comments or questions by members of the Committee. Seeing none, there seems to be a desire by some to become additional sponsors to O-20-027 so to our wonderful people in the office that are going to transcribe this meeting I think Alderman Klee would like to sign on as an additional sponsor, Alderman Schmidt did you want to sign on as an additional sponsor?

Alderman Schmidt

Sure, I'll make sure, I'll put in the notes as well Mr. Chairman.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you, great Clerk I got, thank you so much. Alderman Jette do you choose or to pass, you can also wait to the general meeting if you so desire.

Alderman Jette

Yeah I'll pass at this point, thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Very good, and to the transcriber, could you please include me as an additional sponsor as well? Ok thank you. That being done, I will call the vote, seeing no further questions. Can the Clerk please call the roll?

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Schmidt,  
Alderman Jette 4

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**O-20-024**

Endorser: Alderman Jan Schmidt

**REMOVING AUTHORIZATION FOR RIGHT TURN ONLY LANE ON PINE HILL ROAD AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH CHARRON AVENUE**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman O'Brien

The recommendation is for final passage from Alderman Schmidt. Would you like to speak to your motion?

Alderman Schmidt

I would, thank you Mr. Chairman. This intersection has been undergoing all sorts of changes since the change in the road was widened on Sharon Ave. There was some attempt to put in a turn lane and stop on all sides; it didn't work out very well. The new Engineer has made a plan, it has been proposed, it has been seen by public and one of the steps that we have to take is to remove the right turn only lane. That should avoid a bunch of confusion for people who don't know that they have to stop even if they are in a straight through lane. So I would really like to see this passed so we can an all-way stop put in and without any more confusion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman O'Brien

Are there any further comments? We do have the City Engineer who said he would be available from any members of the Committee? Ok, seeing that the City Engineer is here, I'll give you the opportunity to add any further information to this.

Mr. Hudson

Thank you Mr. Chair, I would. As Alderman Schmidt said, we did try to do something a little different and it didn't work out so well. So what we are proposing here is an all-way stop and we just want the single lane approaches on the Pine Hill approach because we have found that multiple lanes stop, because the condition was a little confusing. There will still remain the separate left and right turn lanes on Sharon Ave. We have run simulations and we think that the intersection will operate fairly well. If any members of the public or anybody wants to go watch that simulation, they can go to the Engineering Web Site and choose "Traffic Engineering". We have posted the presentation that we made at the May 28<sup>th</sup> Board of Public Works Meeting. So if people are interested, they can certainly do that. And yeah, I'd be happy to answer any other questions.

Chairman O'Brien

Any further questions from members of the Committee. Seeing none (inaudible audio/ audio cuts out). Can you hear me now? You can hear me now.

Alderman Lopez

It might be an idea for people to turn off their cameras when they are not being used just to reduce the bandwidth.

Chairman O'Brien

I don't know what is happening but I am not having a good technology tonight, evidently. I have been relegated to the basement; I didn't think this place was a bunker. Seeing no additional sponsors, any other further questions? Seeing none, will the Clerk please call the vote?

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Schmidt,  
Alderman Jette

4

Nay:

0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**O-20-026**

Endorser: Alderman Patricia Klee

**REMOVING HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES IN FRONT OF 3 BEACON COURT AND 9 AND 11 MOUNT PLEASANT STREET**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman O'Brien

Very good, Alderman Klee, would you like, this is your Ordinance, would you like to speak to the motion?

Alderman Klee

Yes I would, thank you very much. I have been contacted by a number of residents that live in that area that these spaces are no longer being used. And after looking into an investigation and looking at the original Ordinances, the people that were using them at the time have since moved, which again is one of those questions that I've brought up in the past of how do we control this type of thing. But in the meantime, we'd like to have these three parking spaces made available to all and to have the handicap removed. They are no longer necessary, no longer needed. I think it is time and with the limited parking spaces, especially in these neighborhoods, it is important. It does not give them overnight parking or anything to that nature. It just removes the handicap spaces. Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

OK, any other comment of any members of the Committee? Seeing none, as Chairman of Infrastructure I would like to thank Alderman Klee for this Ordinance. I think in the City we do try to help out for reasons, if it is handicap spaces (audio cuts in and out) then they stay there forever. When something is no longer relevant, we can take care of that and they should contact their Ward Alderman to get it on the Agenda. Am I getting out there?

Alderman Lopez

You are coming out as a remix.

Alderman Klee

I think we caught part of the end when you said that if those who have these same situations they should contact their Ward Alderman, and I strongly recommend that also. So thank you for bringing it up, sir.

Chairman O'Brien

Yeah and that's it. Alright, can the Clerk please call the vote?

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Schmidt,  
Alderman Jette

4

Nay:

0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman O'Brien

Next on the Agenda we do have two bills that are tabled in the committee. Some of them are pending to the traffic study. I was hoping to be joined this evening by Mr. Cummings, but evidently he cannot make it. It was just going to be a brief update of the parking study.

TABLED IN COMMITTEE**O-20-004**

**Endorsers:** Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

**ALLOWING PERMITTED OVERNIGHT ON-STREET PARKING ON EIGHTH STREET**

- Tabled at 2/26/20 meeting

**O-20-006**

**Endorsers:** Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

**ALLOWING PERMITTED OVERNIGHT ON-STREET PARKING ON A PORTION OF PRESCOTT STREET**

- Tabled at 2/26/20 meeting

GENERAL DISCUSSION - NonePUBLIC COMMENT - NoneREMARKS BY THE ALDERMENAlderman Lopez

I just would like to thank Padma for giving me another couple hundred masks. I have been giving them to some of the businesses in my Ward that have staff that need to be using them in order to serve the public safely. And I just want to remind the public to continue using those and to be careful. We have been pretty fortunate in New Hampshire particularly that we never really had a widespread outbreak and we didn't experience community based transmission, but we are starting to see numbers picking up looking at the Public Health numbers that are coming in every day.

We are seeing – Nashua has always had a larger population than typical of younger people that are experiencing COVID-19, they just aren't necessarily transmitting it in a widespread format. But we are starting to see more community based transmission. And while we are really good at the contact tracing right now, national events could start making it difficult to get testing returned in a reasonable way and you can't really can't do contact testing if you've already had to wait 5 or 6 days for your test results to return. I mean you could do it, but at that point the cat is out of the bag. So I would just urge everybody to remain cautious and vigilant so we can continue to enjoy the relative safety that we've had here in Nashua.

Chairman O'Brien

Very good; anybody else?

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO ADJOURN BY ROLL CALL**

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Schmidt,  
Alderman Jette 4

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 7:34 p.m.

Alderman Jan Schmidt  
Committee Clerk



Single Lane

Parking

Bike Lane

West Pearl St

Two Lanes

Left-Turn Lane

Elm St

Main St