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MOMENTUM BUILDS FOR BICYCLE MASTER PLAN WITH SECOND PUBLIC MEETING

Meeting scheduled for April 6

CONCORD – More than 70 City residents and bicycling advocates turned out for the City's first Bicycle Master Plan public meeting in December. Planners, engineers and volunteer residents will host a second public meeting next week to continue learning how residents envision the City being safer and more bicycle friendly for commuting and recreation.

The Bicycle Subcommittee of the City's Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC-Bicycle) will host the meeting on April 6, 6:30pm, at the City Council Chambers, 37 Green St., Concord. TPAC-Bicycle is strongly encouraging bicyclists of all ages and ability levels and any other interested citizens to attend the meeting.

Meeting organizers will share with participants what was learned at the first meeting and ask if what is presented accurately reflects the community's interests, goals and vision and if there are any additional topics to explore. The meeting is designed to be a two-way conversation between participants and organizers.

New to this meeting will be interactive voting where organizers will present aerial images of several intersections and corridors across the City. Organizers will ask participants to rank their overall bicycle friendliness and importance to Concord's bicycle network. The voting devices will provide instant results for people to see and talk about.

Participants will also be split into three rotating topic groups: Route Maps, Recreation and Trails, and Review of Findings.

The groups will review and comment on a draft map of proposed bicycle routes as well as a "hot spots" graphic showing problem intersections identified in December. The groups will also meet with representatives of the Concord Conservation Commission, Trails Committee and Recreation Department to talk about recreational opportunities and open space. The groups will also be presented the latest news on what is already being done to make Concord more bicycle friendly.

The Bicycle Master Plan is part of a TPAC-Bicycle-led approach to providing a comprehensive transportation network that affords safe travel for bicyclists, pedestrians, transit users and drivers.

TPAC-Bicycle will present the completed Bicycle Master Plan to the City's Planning Board for its consideration to be included in the City's Master Plan 2030, and will also present to the Concord City Council for adoption as follow-up to the Comprehensive Transportation Policy, adopted by the Council in January.

The meeting is being organized by the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC), TPAC-Bicycle and Concord 2020.

CNHRPC is one of nine regional planning commissions in New Hampshire. It is comprised of 20 communities in the Central New Hampshire region.

TPAC-Bicycle is a subcommittee of TPAC, a standing committee set up by the Concord City Council and Mayor James Bouley in 2008 to evaluate and develop policies for the city's transportation network. There are also TPAC pedestrian, transit, traffic operations and neighborhood traffic committees.

Concord 2020 is a citizen involvement group supporting a smart growth vision in Concord, NH: vibrant downtown, walkable villages, environmental preservation, access to nature, economic vitality and people-friendly transportation. Concord 2020 is the project major funder with support of Federal funds through a Transportation Challenge Grant.