CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

TRANSPORTATION

September 16, 2013 – 6:00 p.m.

Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

<u>City Council Present</u>: Mayor Spear, Assistant Mayor Lister, Councilors Coviello, Kennedy, Novelline Clayburgh, Lown, Dwyer, Smith and Thorsen

Staff Present: City Manager Bohenko; Assistant City Manager Dave Allen; City Attorney Robert Sullivan; City Planner Juliet Walker and Parking and Transportation Services Director Mark Nelson

Mayor Spear called the Work Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

City Planner Juliet Walker gave a brief power point presentation regarding the status of Transportation in the City of Portsmouth. She reviewed the Transportation Matrix which included Complete Streets, Bicycles and Pedestrians, Public Transit, Parking Access and Connections, and General Transportation. She stated that each category includes a City Council action item as recommended by the Transportation Policy Report submitted in April 2013.

City Manager Bohenko stated it will be up to the City Council as to how and when each action item is brought forward and if anything needs to be added to the CIP. He stated changes can still be made but we want to avoid stop/start of projects. He stated that there is an expectation from the community that we will go forward with recommendations and the staff needs guidance as to how to proceed as well. He stated that not everything needs to be done at once.

Councilor Dwyer stated she wants to clarify that if the policy is adopted, not everything will be greenlit at once.

Councilor Kennedy stated she is concerned with the "TDB" and would like costs to be stated clearly. City Manager Bohenko stated those amounts are know but are to be determined if they should be added to the CIP.

Councilor Novelline Clayburgh stated she thought that the "Sharrows" have already been installed. City Planner Walker stated that there are more areas that will be added.

City Manager Bohenko stated that in regards to the Complete Streets Policy and Bicycle and Walk Friendly Communities Action plans it appears that there is a consensus to bring those back for Council adoption.

Next, the Council discussed COAST public bus system which is working to improve efficiencies and ridership and no action needs to be taken currently.

Councilor Thorsen asked if any shuttles other than COAST are being looked at as part of the plan. City Manager Bohenko stated that we are looking at other vendors to provide a shuttle from satellite parking areas to the downtown with 10 minute turnaround times. He stated this service will not be cheap and we need to determine how it will be funded. He stated we are also looking at walkable lots that people don't need to wait for a shuttle but can still stay out of the downtown traffic flow. Councilor Thorsen stated we should look at other services such as taxis and horse drawn carriages as well. City Manager Bohenko stated that valet parking services are also becoming more prevalent.

Finally, discussion ensued regarding various parking lot options and time limits and rates, including the High/Hanover Parking Garage. The consensus of the Council is to have the most efficient use of spaces and to track how many of the spaces are being taken up by permit holders that aren't being used as well as hotel guests.

Mayor Spear closed the Work Session at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Valerie A. French, Deputy City Clerk