

Memo

To: Berlin City Council
From: Jim Wheeler, City Manager
Date: 8-21-2017
Re: City Manager's Report

1. Recreation had another successful year with the USDA Food Program serving 1,397 lunches and 1,542 snacks at the six park sites during the month of July (Recreation Center, Friendship Park, Community/Central Park, Brookside Park and Project Youth's St. Barnabas & Hillside sites).

They also served cold cereal breakfast at playground sites thanks to a donation of four (80 ct.) cases of cereal from the Salvation Army. Hats off to Morgan Boucher, Noah Dumas and all the playground leaders that helped make this happen! The Playground Program ended Friday, August 11; (Project Youth ended August 4th).

2. There is a meeting of the House Science, Technology & Energy Committee to work on [HB 324](#), the bill that **would require municipalities to use the Department of Revenue Administration's values when assessing utility property**. This would impose a significant financial hardship on the City of Berlin and other communities. The committee retained the bill in the spring and must make a recommendation to the House by mid-November. The committee's first meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 6, at 1:30 p.m.**, in LOB Room 304 in Concord.

The Assessing Standards Board has been receiving presentations from a variety of utility assessors and the DRA utility assessor over the last several months to gain a better understanding of the methods used in valuing utility properties. The most recent meeting held on the topic was this past Friday. House Member Richard Barry, Chairman of the S,T&E Committee, attended the meeting on Friday to get an understanding of the information the ASB is collecting. The next ASB meeting is scheduled for September 15th.

3. The Governor's advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT), announced their public meeting schedule to include a presentation of the 2019-2018 Ten Year Transportation Plan. The meeting for District 1, hosted by Councilor Joseph Kenney will be held Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 2:00 PM in the City Hall Auditorium 168 Main Street, Berlin.

4. Attached is an article from the NH Union Leader about pod cars which reports that the idea could be tested in Berlin. The City has had no conversations with the transportation system company about a municipal trial of the system in Berlin. A private landowner has only conceptually talked to us about the potential use of the system on private property.
5. A report of municipal water use provided by the Berlin Water Works is attached.
6. The following are brief project updates:
 - The Rte. 16 project remains on schedule.
 - The RFQ for the Riverwalk project has been written, approved by NHDOT for review and is in the process of being published for responses. NHDOT is skeptical that we will be able to begin construction in 2018 due the LTAP program and permitting requirements, however, we are going work as aggressively as possible.
 - The RFP for the skate park remains in development pending test pits to be conducted on the site within the next week or so.
7. The City's auditors were here all of last week and will be here for a few days this week as they complete the on-site portion of the municipal audit.

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 14, 2017

Contacts:

Bill Boynton, Public Information Office
(603) 271-6495

Public hearings set for 2019-2028 NH Ten Year Transportation plan

19 Public Hearings Planned Across New Hampshire For Public Input

The Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) will hold 19 Public Hearings across New Hampshire to review and receive input on the update of the State's Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (2019-2028). The series of Public Hearings will begin on September 11th in Merrimack and conclude on October 26th in Manchester.

The purpose of these Public Hearings is to receive public comments/testimony on transportation projects and priorities included in the draft 2019-2028 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan as recommended by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to GACIT.

Those not able to attend the meetings can submit written testimony within 10 days of the completion of the Public Hearings. (no later than November 6, 2017 at 4:00 pm)

Written Comments should be addressed to:

William E. Watson, P.E.
Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance
New Hampshire Department of Transportation
John O. Morton Building, 7 Hazen Drive
P.O. Box 483
Concord, NH 03302-0483

Any individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication equipment due to sensory impairment or other disability, should contact Sharon Allaire at (603) 271-3344, or NHDOT, P.O. Box 483, Concord, N.H. 03302-0483 - TDD access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964.

Copies of any documents related to the Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (2019-2028) will be available for review on the NHDOT website prior to the first Public Hearing: <http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/index.htm> or by contacting the Bureau of Planning & Community Assistance at the Department of Transportation (603-271-3344).

| Executive Councilor | Date | Town/City | Time | Location |
|--|-------------------|-------------|----------|---|
| District 5 Councilor David Wheeler | (Mon) 9/11/17 | Merrimack | 7:00 PM | Merrimack Town Hall-West Wing Matthew Thornton Room 6 Baboosic Lake Road |
| District 4 Councilor Christopher Pappas | (Thur) 9/14/17 | Londonderry | 7:00 PM | Town Office Council Chambers Moosehill Room 268B Mammoth Road |
| District 3 Councilor Russell Prescott | (Mon) 9/18/17 | Kingston | 7:00 PM | Kingston Community Library 56 Church Street by GPS Actual address: 2 Library Lane |
| District 1 Councilor Joseph Kenney | (Tue) 9/19/17 | Errol | 9:00 AM | Errol Town Hall 33 Main Street |
| District 1 Councilor Joseph Kenney | (Tue) 9/19/17 | Berlin | 2:00 PM | City Hall Auditorium 168 Main Street |
| District 1 Councilor Joseph Kenney | (Tue) 9/19/17 | Conway | 7:00 PM | Town Hall, Upstairs 1634 East Main Street |
| District 2 | (Wed) | Keene | 12:30 PM | Keene Parks and Recreation |

Councilor Andru Volinsky 9/20/17 312 Washington Street - Room 14
Co-Hosted with
District 5
Councilor David Wheeler

District 1 (Thur) Lebanon 7:00 PM City Council Chambers
Councilor Joseph Kenney 9/21/17 51 North Park Street 5th Floor

District 2 (Thur) Dover 4:00 PM Dover City Hall
Councilor Andru Volinsky 9/28/17 Auditorium
288 Central Avenue

District 2 (Thur) Rochester 7:00 PM Rochester Community Center
Councilor Andru Volinsky 9/28/17 150 Wakefield St-Room 1A
Co-Hosted with
District 1
Councilor Joseph Kenney

District 4 (Mon) Bedford 7:00 PM Bedford Cable and Meeting Room
Councilor Christopher Pappas 10/2/17 10 Meetinghouse Road

District 2 (Wed) Concord 7:00 PM NH Department of Transportation
Councilor Andru Volinsky 10/4/17 Room 114
Co-Hosted with
District 4
Councilor Christopher Pappas

District 1 (Thur) Littleton 9:00 AM Littleton House Heald Room
Councilor Joseph Kenney 10/5/17 120 Main Street

District 1 (Thur) Plymouth 2:00 PM Town Hall – Upstairs
Councilor Joseph Kenney 10/5/17 6 Post Office Square

District 1 (Thur) Laconia 7:00 PM City Council Chambers
Councilor Joseph Kenney 10/5/17 Room 200-A
45 Beacon Street East

District 3 (Thur) New market 7:00 PM New market Town Hall
Councilor Russell Prescott 10/12/17 186 Main Street

District 3 (Mon) Hampton 7:00 PM Seashell Complex
Councilor Russell Prescott 10/16/17 Ocean Front Pavillion Room
170 Ocean Boulevard

District 5 (Wed) Peterborough 7:00 PM Town Hall
Councilor David Wheeler 10/18/17 1 Grove Street
Co-Hosted with
District 2
Councilor Andru Volinsky

District 4 (Thur) Manchester 7:00 PM Aldermanic Chambers – 3rd Floor
Councilor Christopher Pappas 10/26/17 City Hall, 1 City Hall Plaza
Co-Hosted with
District 2
Councilor Andru Volinsky

New Hampshire Department of Transportation
PO Box 483 | 7 Hazen Drive | Concord, NH | 03302-0483
Tel: 603.271-3734 | Fax: 603.271.3914

August 19. 2017 6:48PM

Boston company says pod transportation could be in NH's not-so-distant future

By MICHAEL COUSINEAU (mailto:mcousineau@unionleader.com)

New Hampshire Union Leader

Imagine riding in a futuristic-looking, glass-enclosed pod attached to an elevated track to reach work or the mall. That concept could be tested in Berlin this fall, with the pods themselves possibly made in the Queen City.

"If Manchester was one of the first municipalities to sign an agreement for air rights on public rights-of-way - without any financial or technical risk, then the likelihood is 100% (OK, 99%)" of building pods in Manchester, Mike Stanley, CEO of Transit X, said in an email.



(/storyimage/UL/20170820/NEWS19/170829986/AR/0/AR-170829986.jpg?q=100)

Boston-based Transit X envisions a near future in which people ride in automated pod cars that zip along tracks at least 19 feet above the ground. (COURTESY)

Stanley said he is "very loyal to those who show their commitment."

The Boston-based company wants to get you out of your carbon-emitting car and into automated pod cars that zip along tracks at least 19 feet above the ground. While the concept right now might seem as far-fetched as those flying cars in the "The Jetsons," Stanley has been pitching the idea to local governments and says several have expressed interest.

The pods make more sense than flying cars, he says.

"We plan to be able to replace cars, buses, trains and trucks," Stanley said in an interview. "It's profitable ... It's less costly for us to create new infrastructure than it is to repair and maintain the existing roads."

Stanley envisions 460 miles of track installed across the state with nearly 6,000 pods dropping off people at any of 1,000 stops - and providing as much as \$40 million a year to municipalities for providing air rights and rights-of-way. Stanley said he isn't looking for any public funding.

Asked about the timetable for reaching that \$40 million figure, Stanley said he thinks it could take "at

least three to four years after start of operation, but could be longer."

"Depends upon many factors," he said. "I would add that the fee is actually a rather small part of the value that the municipality would receive."

Passengers would pay about 50 cents a mile to ride.

"We have verbals (statements) from seven communities that are saying they are moving forward with it and are getting letters of intent," Stanley said. He said those include the Massachusetts communities of Bridgewater, Fitchburg, Leominster and Ayer.

He said municipalities would receive 5 percent of gross revenues for air rights and use of rights-of-way. He expects the first system in the United States to start operating in 2018.

Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas remembers someone dropped into his office several months ago with a pod proposal, asking for places where the pods could be manufactured.

"I told him we had a lot of space that could accommodate that and looked forward to hearing back from him," Gatsas said.

Transit X's preliminary proposal envisions a 45-mile network with pods running at 45 mph among more than 135 stops, providing Manchester with up to \$11.2 million a year in revenue.

Berlin test

Stanley is working to get approval to set up a test track on private property in Berlin, which he gives a 90 percent chance of happening in the next six months.

Berlin City Manager Jim Wheeler said a Berlin property owner contacted City Hall a few months back about possibly hosting a test run.

"We would certainly consider any proposal from a company that wants to do something innovative," Wheeler said.

The pod cars could travel up to 135 mph in some stretches.

Passengers would pay on a per-mile basis (by cellphone or kiosk) and could store any baggage in storage lockers.

Future transportation

Gatsas pointed to the fact that many millennials believe they don't need a car. The new Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute (ARMI) that inventor Dean Kamen is heading up in the Millyard is talking about making advances in regenerative medicine, including producing organs.

"If you were at that (recent) groundbreaking with ARMI, you would have thought they were going to do one next week," Gatsas said.

Stanley said company officials are in discussions about financing with multiple investment banks he couldn't name, as well as with investors who would receive equity for providing cash.

A fit for Nashua?

David Doucette, a city councilor in Marlborough, Mass., who has heard the company's presentation, said there is "a big movement to try to divest out of fossil fuels. That means there's a lot of money sitting on the sidelines trying to be invested in green technology. Mike Stanley's proposal is a bull's-eye for that money."

Bill Boynton, spokesman for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, said it is too early to discuss possibilities.

"Without having been presented with any proposal, i.e. use of existing right-of-way, funding etc., which we have not seen, we cannot get specific on what kind of permitting would be necessary," Boynton said in an email.

Doucette said he doesn't see the idea as pie in the sky.

"I see it as very realistic, and I think the biggest issue again is him getting funding and getting the initial prototype up," Doucette said.

Doucette said the city council narrowly approved taking further steps to pursue the technology, but the mayor vetoed it.

Doucette, a 30-year veteran of the high-tech industry, said he is familiar with Nashua and could see the pod system work there.

"I think if they could connect the industrial parks to the Pheasant Lane Mall to downtown and the logistics involved in that, if it started there, it would radically redefine commuting in the city," said Doucette, a former Digital Equipment Corp. employee.

mcousineau@unionleader.com



BERLIN WATER WORKS

OFFICE OF THE WATER COMMISSION
55 Willow Street, Berlin, NH

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
55 Willow Street
Berlin, NH 03570-1883
Tel: 603-752-1677
Fax: 603-752-3055

August 1, 2017

Honorable Mayor, City Council & City Manager
City of Berlin
168 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570

RE: MUNICIPAL WATER USE

Dear Honorable Mayor, City Council & City Manager:

Attached is the municipal water use and representative charges for the period of April 7, 2017 to July 10, 2017 which represents our August 2017 Billing Quarter.

This is being provided for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Craig P. Carrigan
Superintendent

CPC:db

MUNICIPAL WATER
USED FROM 4/7/17- 7/10/17

| <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>USAGE IN</u> <u>CUBIC FEET</u> | <u>WATER</u> <u>CHARGES</u> | <u>CHARGE FOR</u> <u>ASSESSMENT</u> |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| SCHOOL FACILITIES: | | | |
| High School | 47,300 \$ | 895.71 \$ | 1,428.00 |
| Jr. High - State St. | - \$ | - \$ | 27.00 |
| Jr. High - Pine St. | 600 \$ | 30.00 \$ | 27.00 |
| Marston School | - \$ | - \$ | 27.00 |
| Brown School | 7,800 \$ | 180.57 \$ | 243.00 |
| SUB TOTAL | 55,700 \$ | 1,106.28 \$ | 1,752.00 |
| CITY FACILITIES: | | | |
| City Hall | 2,000 \$ | 64.68 \$ | 69.00 |
| Library | 4,300 \$ | 112.05 \$ | 138.00 |
| Fire Station | 6,900 \$ | 163.20 \$ | 216.00 |
| BIDPA - 145 Main St - Park | 500 \$ | 30.00 \$ | 27.00 |
| BIDPA - 121 Main St (added Jan 2013) | - \$ | - \$ | 27.00 |
| Coos County Court House(added 12/2/13) | - \$ | - \$ | 27.00 |
| Police & Recreation | 5,000 \$ | 126.03 \$ | 159.00 |
| Recreation Storage - Gilbert Street 8/19/15 | 200 \$ | 30.00 \$ | 27.00 |
| Public Works Facility | 7,500 \$ | 174.78 \$ | 234.00 |
| Waste Water Plant | 18,200 \$ | 377.77 \$ | 555.00 |
| Watson St. Pump Stations | 45,400 \$ | 864.17 \$ | 1,371.00 |
| Memorial Field - Portland St | 76,600 \$ | 1,382.09 \$ | 27.00 |
| Sewer Pump Station 89 E. Milan Rd | 2,600 \$ | 77.10 \$ | 87.00 |
| Central Playground Bathroom added 10/15 | 400 \$ | 30.00 \$ | 27.00 |
| Jericho Rd Wastewater Pump Station | flat rate \$ | 40.56 \$ | 39.00 |
| Armory Wastewater Pump Station | flat rate \$ | 40.56 \$ | 39.00 |
| Shelby St. Wastewater Pump Station | - \$ | - \$ | 27.00 |
| Napert Village Wastewater Pump Station | - \$ | - \$ | 27.00 |
| Recreation Rinks, etc. | flat rate \$ | 40.56 \$ | 39.00 |
| Recreation - River Street | flat rate \$ | 40.56 \$ | 39.00 |
| SUB TOTAL | 169,600 \$ | 3,594.11 \$ | 3,201.00 |
| City Hydrants | flat rate \$ | 27,000.04 \$ | 48,604.50 |
| | 225,300 \$ | 31,700.43 \$ | 53,557.50 |
| TOTAL DUE | | | \$ 85,257.93 |