

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Form Based Code, Zoning Ordinance Change Presentation by the
COAST Bus Presentation by Rad Nichols, Executive Director

June 17, 2019 at 6:00pm

Councilors Pepin, Vincent, Sprague (6:35), Dumont, Austin, Michaud, and Levasseur were present.

Mayor Hilliard opened the workshop at 6:00pm by welcoming Rad Nichols, Executive Director of COAST Bus.

During the presentation that is attached, Mr. Nichols explained that services and routes will be changing. They are Maximizing services and will have a fixed route service.

Michael Williams, of Coast, demonstrated the Coast website and interactive map of routes.

Following the presentation, Council had the following questions.

Councilor Pepin asked how many ADA service runs there were in Somersworth in the past year. Mr. Nichols stated that he doesn't know at this time, but he will get the information.

Councilor Levasseur asked about the top 3 stops in the area.

Mr. Nichols stated that the Dover Transportation Center, Market Square, Shaw's and Fox Run Mall are all heavily used stops.

Councilor Michaud asked if the Coast route through Main Street was going to be completely eliminated. Some of his neighbors depend on Coast for transportation.

Mr. Nichols stated, in this proposal, there would be no service on Main Street, but there would be service about a block away. ADA service is available in the area.

Councilor Vincent ask why we are discontinuing service on Main Street.

Mr. Nichols explained that they are trying to keep the routes to one hour. Keeping Main Street would not allow them to make other connections. Other options were to increase the route times to two hours but that changes the level of convenience. They could schedule alternating routes, but that adds complexity and customers like simplicity. They could add a second route, but that would be an added cost.

Councilor Austin stated that he is concerned because the City is trying to grow business development, and this could hinder business growth on Main Street.

City Manager Belmore asked about the timeline, when these new routes will start.

Mr. Nichols stated that the new routes would take effect in August of 2020.

City Manager Belmore stated they will be looking to move a bus shelter on Main Street.

Councilor Vincent said he supports Coast Bus and asked if this proposal is a decrease in service.

Mr. Nichols explained it is a decrease in budget and a decrease in service area, and routes will be run hourly, whereas, some of the routes currently are every 30 minutes, and some are currently every 90 minutes.

With no further questions or comments from Council, the Workshop adjourned at 6:48pm

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Harris, City Clerk