

Central NH Regional Planning Commission

28 Commercial Street, Suite #3

Concord, NH, 03301

Tel: (603) 226-6020

Fax: (603) 226-6023

www.cnhrpc.org



Transportation Advisory Committee

June 3, 2016

APPROVED Minutes

Bow Municipal Building, Bow, 10 Grandview Road, Bow

9:00 A.M.

Attendees	
Barbara Annis, Town of Warner	Larry Anderson, Town of Allenstown
Emilio Cancio-Bello, Town of Sutton	Bob Cole, Town of Loudon
Adam Hlasny, SNHPC	Steve Laurin, Town of Dunbarton
Dick Lemieux, Concord TPAC/FMRGT	Rob Mack, City of Concord
Ted Mitchell, Town of Pittsfield	Richard Moore, Town of Chichester
Robyn Payson, Town of Hillsborough	Stan Prescott, Town of Loudon
Jim Pritchard, Town of Pittsfield	Christine Trovato, Town of Henniker
Bill Watson, NHDOT	Harry Wright, Town of Bradford

Commission Staff: Sam Durfee, Steve Henninger, Jennifer Mock, Dean Williams

The meeting began at 9:01 A.M, called to order by Chair, Barbara Annis.

Introductions

All TAC members and guests present introduced themselves.

Review and Approve Minutes of the May 6, 2016 TAC Meeting

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the May 6, 2016 TAC meeting as written.

M/S/Passed Larry Anderson/Emilio Cancio-Bello

NHDOT Update

Bill Watson from NHDOT provided an update on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). CMAQ funding is available for air quality and congestion improvement projects. Previously, funds could only be used for projects located in nonattainment areas in NH, typically south and east of Manchester, where air pollution levels consistently exceeded the national standards. Types of CMAQ projects can include transit, bus service, including start-up

of new transit routes, park and rides and sidewalks. The last round of CMAQ projects was in 2009. There are currently projects from this round on the books or ones which have been removed, such as the Capital Corridor project. If CMAQ funding is not spent, in the near future then the State will lose the funding. Therefore, it is important to find projects in order to utilize the funding available. Transit projects typically are the best type of process and funding can be used for both capital or operating expenses. There is a three-year limit on operating costs for transit providers once the new service begins. After three years FTA funds may be available on a 50 federal/50 local match ratio. A sustainability plan also needs to be in place for after the three-year period ends. Additionally, funding can be used statewide and no longer in strictly non-attainment areas, however the project still needs to show improvement in congestion and/or air quality. The state is awarded approximately 10 million dollars per year in CMAQ funding.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which used to be Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding, provides choices for non-motorized users that are safe, convenient and reliable. TAP projects typically consist of sidewalks and trail type projects for pedestrian and bicyclists. TAP reimburses local communities up to 80 percent of the costs of the project. The program requires local communities to pay 100 percent of the upfront cost and then will be reimbursed by NHDOT up to 80 percent. A letter of interest is required to be submitted to NHDOT including their ideas, location, estimated costs and other considerations and those interested are required to attend a pre-application meeting. After municipalities have submitted a letter of interest and attended the pre-application meeting, they are then eligible to submit a TAP application. There is a minimum award of \$400,000 and a maximum of \$1 million. NHDOT plans to award approximately \$5 million under the Transportation Alternatives Program.

Public Involvement Plan

CNHRPC staff provided an update on the draft CNHRPC Public Involvement Plan (PIP). A Draft copy of the updated PIP was provided to TAC members present. Dean Williams mentioned that CNHRPC wants to strive to do better when notifying the public about transportation planning and projects within the region, ensuring that all residents have an opportunity to be involved. The public comment period had ended and staff took those comments into careful consideration when updating the PIP. Harry Wright, of Bradford, had recommended adding school boards to the list of public officials who were contacted. Steve Laurin, from the Town of Dunbarton, added that the Table of Contents should be updated to reflect actual headings per page.

A motion was made to accept the Public Involvement Plan with the minor changes.

M/S/Passed Larry Anderson/Stephen Laurin

CNHRPC Unified Planning Work Program Performance Measures

Performance measures are now being required by the FHWA for any programs that receive federal funding. Steve Henninger has been working on tracking specific performance measures that CNHRPC has completed as part of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). These regional measures include but are not limited to tracking red-listed bridges, TAC meetings held, traffic counts completed and town specific measures such as sidewalk improvements. Performance tracking includes what CNHRPC informed NHDOT they would

complete versus what was actually completed. Steve hopes to have a draft of the report available at the next TAC meeting.

Special Projects

- **Concord Pedestrian Master Plan**
Dean Williams indicated that the draft Concord Master Plan has been submitted to the Public Transportation Sub-committee (TPAC). It is currently in the review process and TPAC will respond with any changes or comments they may have.
- **Bow RSMS & Culvert Inventory Project Request**
Dean Williams noted that CNHRPC is continuing to work with NH DOT and UNH on the RSMS project. CNHRPC staff has entered three to four years of road repairs for the Town of Bow. The software provided an importance or priority rating. This was then compared to the town's current plan and feedback was provided to NHDOT. UNH will have changes to the program based upon this feedback. Staff is hopeful that the pilot program will be completed in Fall 2016. Culvert inspections and stream crossings still need to be completed.
- **Concord – Franklin Transit Feasibility Study**
Sam Durfee provided an update on the Concord- Franklin Transit Study. He stated that the Committee is currently working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for consultant assistance on the project. The previous Concord – Manchester Transit Study is being used as a guide. Committee members are looking to see what can be done in house before seeking assistance from the Consultant. The survey still needs to be developed along with the RFP. The Committee hopes to have them completed in July.
- **Regional Freight Study**
Staff hopes to submit a special projects request for a regional freight study to NHDOT and work with communities affected by freight on this study. Data collections, vehicle class counts, survey development including infrastructure improvements, goods being transported, SWAT analysis of freight and infrastructure in the region, developing a stakeholder group are all tasks that would need to be completed. Currently the towns of Bow, Henniker, and Hopkinton have steady freight traffic. Bill Watson mentioned that NHDOT is currently working to have Governor and Council approve their State Freight Plan contract. It will take approximately a year and half to complete. Dean Williams mentioned that it would be ideal to dovetail the regional freight study with NHDOT's freight plan.

Regional Updates/Other Business

- **Regional Traffic Counting Program**
Dean Williams noted that traffic count requests were received from fifteen towns in the region. Staff is working on completing both local and state traffic counts each week.

- Commute Smart Central NH
Dean Williams provided the Commute Smart Central NH update mentioning that the kickoff was held at the beginning of May. Commuters were continuing to log their trips and have shown an increase in activity.
- Mid State Regional Coordinating Council
Dean Williams provided the Mid State Regional Coordinating Council (Mid State RCC) update for May, noting that he was unable to provide the number of VDP rides given. The RCC hoped to kick off the Taxi Voucher Program sometime in June. The program will provide rides to inmates with disabilities or 60 years of age and older in hopes to assist with job searching and getting individuals released from jail. There is an 80/20 funding eligible for this program. 80 percent will come from federal dollars and 20 percent will be paid by Merrimack County Department of Corrections. The press release will go out shortly and be visible on the CNHPRC's website.
- Other Business
Rob Mack, from the City of Concord stated the new roundabout at Exit 16, of I-93 is still in the design phase with construction hoping to begin later this fall. The Sewalls Fall bridge should be open to traffic by early November.

Next Meeting Date

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for August 5, 2016 at 9:00 A.M., at the Bow Town Hall.

Meeting Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:34 A.M.