

Central NH Regional Planning Commission
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CNHRPC Full Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 11, 2018
7:00pm

Attendees: Bruce Crawford, Town of Boscawen
Stephen Buckley, Town of Bow
Jim Bibbo, Town of Bradford
Harry Wright, Town of Bradford
Tyson Miller, Town of Canterbury
Stan Brehm, Town of Chichester
Matthew Hicks, City of Concord
Keith Johnson, Town of Deering
Clarke Kidder, Town of Hopkinton
Stanley Prescott, Town of Loudon
Kathy Cruson, Town of Pembroke
Emilio Cancio-Bello, Town of Sutton
Ken Milender, Town of Warner
Laurie Rauseo, City of Concord/Town of Canterbury

CNHRPC Staff: Michael Tardiff, Executive Director
Craig Tufts, Principal Planner/GIS Planner
Dean Williams, Transportation Planner
Katie Nelson, Regional Planner

The meeting began at 7:03 P.M., called to order by CNHRPC Chair, Tyson Miller (Canterbury).

Presentation: Bill Watson Administrator of the NHDOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance

Topic: Update on the State Ten Year Plan process.

Bill Watson began his presentation by introducing himself to those present. Mr. Watson gave a description of the Ten Year Plan (TYP) process to date, stating that the process began approximately one year ago when the Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) collected their regional projects and priorities in their regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) then met in July of 2017 and gave NHDOT direction for development of the TYP with the two following assumptions: 1) it will be assumed that funding levels over the next ten years will remain the same, and 2) it will be assumed that the toll rate will remain the same.

A draft TYP was then presented to GACIT in August of 2017, followed by 23 public hearings held across the state. Mr. Watson noted that 50 million dollars were made available in the last two years of the TYP

for regional projects as prioritized in each RPCs regional TIP. Following these public hearings, NHDOT was asked by one of NH's Executive Councilors to look at potential toll increase. As a result three additional public hearings were held to gather public comment. Mr. Watson noted that the proposed toll increase would have made one of the biggest impacts in the Central NH Region as it would have allowed the Everett Turnpike to be expanded up to the Merrimack River, allowed the I-93 Bow/Concord projects to be moved up three to four years, and would have freed up an additional 180 million federal dollars to be used for other projects around the state. The draft TYP, including the toll proposal, was then adopted by GACIT on December 20th, 2017, however, the Governor has taken the toll increase vote off of the Executive Council's agenda, consequently stopping the effort.

Mr. Watson opened the presentation for any questions:

Q: With talk of an upcoming infrastructure plan from the President, would this allow other projects without current funding to be funded or would it allow new projects to be developed.

A: No infrastructure plan has been submitted as of yet by the President, however, it should be noted that the direction the President has given points to the need for match to come from private and public partnerships.

Q: Is it correct that without the additional 30 million dollars per year that would be raised by a toll increase, the TYP would have to be changed (similar to a previous version before the toll increase was introduced) or additional funds would have to be allocated from another source.

A: Yes, that is correct. Mr. Watson added that his staff has already begun drafting a new TYP that does not include accelerated projects that would have resulted from the toll increase.

Q: At what level is rail being discussed?

A: The TYP includes design and feasibility for the Capital Corridor Study. It is expected that the Governor will not take it out.

Q: Heard potential for all interstates across the Country to be widened to three lanes. Does this TYP include that?

A: No that would require different funding unless already included as part of a proposed project.

Mike Tardiff and Dean Williams provided a brief overview of the projects in the Central NH Region included in the TYP. These projects included King Street in Boscawen, King Road/US Route 4 intersection in Chichester, Exit 2 off of I-89, intersection of Rt 28 and Main Street in Chichester, the intersection of Rt 127 and US 202 on the Henniker/Hopkinton town line, and Rt 3A in Bow. It was noted that the Whitney Road project in Concord was not included in the draft TYP, but was included in the City's Capital Improvement Program and in CNHRPC's TIP. Mr. Tardiff then opened the floor for any questions.

Q: In regards to the NH 106/Loudon project, has New Hampshire Motor Speedway (NHMS) losing a race changed that project or funding for that project?

A: That project did not go through the CNHRPC TIP. Mr. Tardiff noted the Town of Loudon has tried to use this as an opportunity to get the NH 106 intersection project moved up. Mr. Watson added that it was unlikely the NH 106 improvement project would change due to changes at NHMS.

Q: Is it only the Executive Council that controls the toll increase?

A: Yes, Although the State Legislature has the ability to designate where the turnpike begins and ends as well as any discounts offered to users of the turnpike.

Q: As the TYP continues through the process, is there opportunity for the toll to be reconsidered?

A: Yes, GACIT and the Governor are still working through the TYP process and discussing variations with and without toll increases.

Mr. Tardiff questioned whether the Commission would like to vote to the to support the continuing conversation about the toll increase. After discussion, a motion was made to express support of the commission for the November 22, 2017 toll increase proposal part of the Ten Year Plan as of that time. Two voting members abstained.

M/S/P Stephen Buckley/ Emilio Cancio-Bello /Passed by majority

Business Meeting

1. Introductions

Introductions were not made. The meeting moved directly to agenda item #2.

2. Minutes of the October 12, 2017 Full Commission Meeting

The minutes were reviewed, and a motion was made to accept the minutes.

M/S/P Stephen Buckley/Keith Johnson/Passed Unanimously

3. Report of the Chair

Mr. Tardiff provided an update of recent and current CNHRPC projects. These projects included finalizing the Bow and Deering Master Plans, Safe Routes to Play in Hillsborough, 79E district work for the Town of Epsom, finalizing four Chapters as well as the Implementation Chapter of the Loudon Master Plan, next steps moving forward regarding the CNHRPC Brownfields Program, and continuing work on the Hopkinton Master Plan.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Tardiff provided the treasurer's report, stating that the commission was in the back for the month of December, and \$1,800 in the red at the end of the calendar year. CNHRPC will continue to work on the budget in the coming month.

5. CNHRPC Developments of Regional Impact Review Guidelines – Update

Mr. Tardiff noted that no action could be taken on these guidelines as no public notice was posted in a local newspaper. These guidelines would be brought to the next Full Commission meeting. Discussion occurred relating to if it is solely the responsibility of an issuing community's Planning Board to determine regional impact of a project or if an abutting community could also issue a regional impact. It was agreed by those present that this should be more clearly defined in the guidelines.

6. Other Business

Bruce Crawford noted that House Bill 1616 would require NH General Court approval for federal money to be distributed to RPCs. No other comments were made.

7. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

M/S/P Stephen Buckley/Matt Hicks/Passed Unanimously