

Central NH Regional Planning Commission

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Transportation Advisory Committee

October 1, 2021

Meeting Minutes

9:00 A.M.

Attendees	
Harry Wright, Town of Bradford	Richard Moore, Town of Chichester
Stan Brehm, Town of Chichester	Sam Durfee, City of Concord
Karen Hill, City of Concord	Donna White, Town of Dunbarton
Betsy Bosiak, Town of Epsom	Joe Devine, Town of Henniker
Robyn Payson, Town of Hillsborough	Carolyn Cronin, Town of Pembroke
Emilio Cancio-Bello, Town of Sutton	Tim Blagden, Town of Warner
Cindy Yanski, Mid State Mobility Manager, CAPBMCI	Bill Watson, NHDOT Bureau of Planning

Commission Staff: Craig Tufts, Dean Williams, Katie Nelson, Matt Baronas, Mike Tardiff, Steve Henninger

Introductions

The meeting began at 9:00 AM, called to order by the Chair. All TAC members and guests present, both in person and virtually, introduced themselves.

Review and Approve Minutes of the June 4th, 2021, TAC Meeting.

As there was not a quorum present in person, the meeting minutes were tabled.

NHDOT FY 2023-2032 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) Update

Bill Watson, NHDOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance, introduced himself and explained how him and many other NHDOT staff have been very busy and recently just wrapped up the 8th Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transit (GACIT) hearing late last night in Merrimack. He noted that the Executive Councilors who make up the GACIT have asked NHDOT to hybridize every single one of the hearings, which has been proven very difficult based on the differences in technology and security across the different venues. He noted that the only GACIT hearing in the CNHRPC region will be at 7:00pm on October 19th at NHDOT's offices on Hazen Drive. The Concord GACIT hearing will be hybrid and links to access the meeting virtually will be available prior to the meeting. He added that there will also be one entirely virtual meeting at the end of October. During this update to the TYP, NHDOT is taking a different approach for presenting to GACIT hearings so that the NHDOT presentation is shorter and there is more time to hear from the public.

Some of the common themes at the GACIT hearings so far have revolved around the public commenting on the need for more transit funding and connections, more interest in active transportation as well as regionally specific capital improvement projects.

Bill noted COVID-19 has led to reductions in revenue, while the existing existing legislation for transportation funding had just expired. Congress has continued to work on passing a new infrastructure bill included a Senate bill that would increase funding for NH. NHDOT has drafted the TYP projecting the increase in funding coming to NH. He added that lack of toll revenue has caused delays in turnpike projects. Bill also noted that special funding coming to the state has also been a result of the pandemic, specifically additional funding for transit.

Bill informed the TAC that two projects from the central NH region were included in the Draft FY2023-2032 TYP – Allenstown Main Street Complete Streets and Dunbarton's Pages Corner intersection improvements. He added that the Henniker-Hopkinton project at US 202 and Nh 127 received additional funding based on the scope of the project. At about the same time as the TYP Update was going on, the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Round 4 of funding also came out. Two projects from CNHRPC have also been added to the TYP under that program – Concord's Merrimack River Greenway Trail and a side path in Warner along NH 103. Mike Tardiff asked whether towns who applied for TAP funding but did not make it into the Draft FY2023-2032 TYP would have to wait until the next TYP update to be funded. Bill noted that if significant Congressionally Designated Funding was designated for TAP projects that those projects would move out of the TAP program and projects below the line would be included in the TYP using TAP funds. Tim Blagden asked if NHDOT would do another TAP round in 2 years if the next federal transportation bill had more funding. Bill responded that they would not be doing that because they would want to ensure the that the projects that have been selected for funding are completed in a reasonable amount of time. Tim questioned whether other states require towns to complete an engineering study prior to being eligible to apply for TAP. Bill noted that Massachusetts and many other states require towns to complete engineering 100% at the cost of the town prior to applying for TAP.

Bill also noted that due to a decrease in toll revenue, the I-93 Bow-Concord widening project is scheduled for completion in 2033. He added that there is more information on the TYP on the NHDOT website as well as a public survey link: <https://live.metroquestsurvey.com/?u=a8b5#!/?p=web&pm=dynamic&s=1&popup=WTD> Dean Williams asked Bill how the corridor study program funding would be incorporated into the TYP update. Bill responded that NHDOT is finalizing the scope with their consultant. They anticipate the contract will be completed by the time GACIT finishes up their work and then they will include GACIT in the prioritization of corridors to be studied.

Commute Smart NH (CSNH) Update

Katie Nelson shared that there will be a Fall Challenge from October 16th to the 31st. Katie added that they are working to finalize the contract with the TDM program provider to hopefully have ready for the challenge.

Any Other Business

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned by the chair at 9:56am.