

Central NH Regional Planning Commission

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Transportation Advisory Committee

March 24, 2023

Meeting Minutes

9:00 A.M.

Attendees	
Alec Bass, City of Concord	Robyn Payson, Town of Hillsborough
Tim Blagden, Town of Warner	Heather Shank, City of Concord
Betsy Bosiak, Town of Epsom	Lucy St. John, NHDOT
Stan Brehm, Town of Pembroke	Russel Tatro, Town of Webster
Emillio Cancio-Bello, Town of Sutton	David Tilton, SNHRPC
Carolyn Cronin, Town of Pembroke	David White, Town of Hopkinton
Karri Makinen, Town of Bow	Harry Wright, Town of Bradford
Richard Moore, Town of Chichester	

Commission Staff: Craig Tufts, Matt Baronas, Mike Tardiff, Stephanie Alexander, Steve Henninger, Vincent Pagano, Matt Taylor

Introductions

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

Review and Approve Minutes of the October 28, 2022, TAC Meeting and Review of Meeting Summary of the February 24, 2023, TAC Meeting

Following minor changes a motion by Tim Blagden and a second from Robyn Payson, the October 28th Minutes were approved unanimously.

Ten Year Plan Regional Priorities: Consideration of Approval

Craig Tufts began by providing an overview of the Ten Year Plan process before discussing the project priorities. The process began in July when CNHRPC solicited and received five project bids to be included in the Ten Year Plan, a set of weights were developed for scoring the projects, a scoring committee was created who developed an initial set of rankings that were shared with and approved by the TAC. The initial project ranking was ordered as Concord, Hopkinton, Hillsborough, Pembroke, and Salisbury.

Next Craig refreshed the group by outlining the plans for the top three ranked projects. The top ranked project in Concord is the re-construction of the McKee Square intersection in the south end of the City. The current conceptualization involves replacing the traffic signal intersection with a multi-lane roundabout with pedestrian infrastructure. The second project was in Hopkinton at the Contoocook Village Fountain Square intersection. The plan included the removal of a slip lane and adjusting the angle of the intersection for added streetscape area and improved safety. The third ranked project in Hillsborough involves adding a roundabout at the intersection of NH Routes 9 and 31 where there is queuing and difficulties making turns at the stop sign.

Craig described the funding allocated to the CNHRPC region for the Ten Year Plan in relation to the cost of the topped ranked projects. There was ~\$5 million allocated to the region and NHDOT instructed that submissions should fit under the allocation along with one additional project. Under this guidance it was expected that Concord would be included, Hopkinton would be next, and Hillsborough was submitted as an additional project in case there was extra funding. NHDOT used these submissions to complete their own cost estimates, which were found to be slightly higher. During this time, CNHRPC and the City worked together to submit a CMAQ application for the Concord project, which was later selected to receive Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding. This CMAQ funding allows the project to be constructed sooner and frees up more of the regional allocation. Without the Concord project the ~\$3 million Hopkinton project can now be fully funded, leaving ~\$2 million in allocation left for the Hillsborough project. However, the cost of the Hillsborough project is \$4.7 million, exceeding this round's allocation. So CNHRPC proposes to request that the project gain entry into the Ten Year Plan and be funded with the remaining allocation then be fully funded in the following cycle with the region's next round of allocation. The Pembroke and Salisbury projects are beyond the allocation, but Craig shared that CNHRPC would be continuing to search for alternative funding sources for these projects or could be included in future rounds of the Ten Year Plan process.

Next Craig highlighted projects within the CNHRPC region that were already in the Ten Year Plan prior to this cycle. The list included many bridge projects, King Street in Boscawen, Page's Corner in Dunbarton, Henniker-Hopkinton 202/9, Main Street in Chichester, and a variety of TAP projects.

Tim Blagden asked if this round of CMAQ projects and other earmarked projects would be included in the Ten Year Plan. Lucy St. John responded that all CMAQ applications will be included as long as they meet the air quality analysis requirements and the earmarked projects will be included.

Craig then outlined the next step as using the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document to formalize the list of projects and their inclusion in the Ten Year Plan as a recommendation to the CNHRPC Full Commission. Mike Tardiff highlighted that the TIP also serves as an educational document discussing other relevant projects happening regionally that are not using the regional allocation.

Tim asked if in the next round the guiding document that is used to select projects could be updated to reflect goals for sustainable and multi-modal transportation. Craig expects the next round will use an updated guiding document as a Regional Transportation Plan is almost completed which can inform the update.

Robyn Payson made a motion to recommend the TIP document to the CNHRPC Full Commission which was seconded by Russel Tatro and passed unanimously.

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) – Status Update

Craig provided an update on the status of the CMAQ program. It was established that all non-electric vehicle (EV) related applications were moving forward and are undergoing air quality analysis before being approved. These projects in the CNHRPC region include the McKee Square Roundabout, CommuteSmart NH TDM software funding, and the Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail. EV-related projects are also expected to be moved forward once all the guidance is released. There were two EV projects in the Region including in Hillsborough and Concord.

CommuteSmart NH Update

Matt Baronas announced that the annual Spring Statewide Challenge will take place for the entire month of May. Participants will compete in teams based on their organizations and compete all month to reduce the most car trips taken. There will be weekly raffles and a leaderboard depicting how teams are performing. Craig also noted that CommuteSmart and the Spring challenge will be a way to coordinate and support statewide efforts to promote May as Bike Month and advertise for Bike to Work events during the month.

Tim Blagden shared that in support of Bike Month and the CommuteSmart Challenge his covered bike parking structure will be placed at the Exit 5 park and ride off I-93 near the Londonderry rail trail during the month of May. The structure is available to be placed in other areas during the months of April and June.

Next Meeting Date

The next TAC meeting date is still to be determined.

Any Other Business

Tim shared that he will be attending the National Bike Summit as a New Hampshire representative. The League of American Bicyclists are hoping to gain support for the E-Bike Bill that would allow for a 30% credit on E-Bikes, a bill that would allow HSIP funds to provide match for TAP grants, and an initiative to have trucks put side guards on that knock cyclists away from the road if hit instead of into the path of the tires.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.