

Central NH Regional Planning Commission

28 Commercial Street, Suite #3

Concord, NH, 03301

Tel: (603) 226-6020

www.cnhrpc.org



Transportation Advisory Committee

September 29, 2023

Meeting Notes

9:00 A.M.

Attendees	
Alec Bass, City of Concord	Lucy St. John, NHDOT
Tim Blagden, Town of Warner	Vanessa Parrington, NHDES, Mobile Source Grant Coordinator
Betsy Bosiak, Town of Epsom	
Carolyn Cronin, Town of Pembroke	
Karri Makinen, Town of Bow	
Richard Moore, Town of Chichester	
Robyn Payson, Town of Hillsborough	
Brett Cherrington, Town of Hillsborough	
Donna White, Town of Dunbarton	

Commission Staff: Craig Tufts, Mike Tardiff, Steve Henninger,

Vincent Pagano, Matt Taylor

1. Introductions

The meeting began at 9:07 AM, called to order by Chair, Betsy Bosiak. All TAC members and guests present, both in person and virtually, introduced themselves.

2. Review and Approve Minutes of the March 24 and August 11 2023, TAC Meeting Minutes

Minutes could not be approved because there was no quorum of in person attendees.

3. Guest Vanessa Parrington NHDES Community Charging Program

Vanessa shared that NHDES has applied for funding for them to develop a competitive grant program for EV charging facilities in NH. They are seeking input on details of a Community Charging Program should NHDES be awarded the funding. She noted they are seeking input on details of the program, but they are not looking for specific locations for EV chargers. She noted that there are two upcoming online listening sessions on October 6 at 12:00 and again at 7:00pm. There is also an option to submit responses via a survey. Vanessa shared a link

through the zoom meeting chat: <https://www.des.nh.gov/event/community-ev-charging-grant-program-request-comment#:~:text=The%20Community%20Charging%20Grant%20program,responses%20during%20the%20live%20session>

Vanessa noted that this program is separate from the VW settlement fund EV program. It is also different from the NHDOT administered program that is requiring projects be located in specific areas along NEVI Alternative Fuel Corridors. If the Community Charging Program comes to pass there will not be restrictions as to charging locations.

4. NHDOT NEVI RFP and Other EV Discussion

Craig reported on another EV charging program being administered through NHDOT. He invited Lucy from NHDOT and Vanessa from DES to chime in with any details as we went through the discussion.

Craig summarized some of the points from a September 11 webinar on the NEVI program and the upcoming RFP, which was initially scheduled to be released today, but is now scheduled for release October 13. This program will have a competitive application (response to the RFP) will only fund DC fast chargers, and there must be at least 4 ports. This is the first round of funding, with additional rounds anticipated in the future. The program focuses on specific locations along the NEVI Alternative Fuel Corridors across the state. Locations in the CNHRPC region include:

- I-89 New London area, which extends to Exit 10 in Sutton,
- I-93 Tilton Area, which extends to Exit 18 in Canterbury,
- Route 9 in Hillsborough.

The Hillsborough location is particularly notable, as the Town has shown interest in the past in supplying EV chargers in its community. It was noted that during the webinar there was discussion of extending beyond these areas. They noted that they hope to get projects that fit within these specified zones, but if some applications come in nearby, such as I-89 Exit 9 in Warner or I-93 Exit 17 in Concord, they may be considered depending on what other applications come in.

There was discussion on who was anticipated to respond to the RFP and what role municipalities might have, including coordinating or reaching out to developers and other EV companies such as Revision Energy and ChargePoint. It was noted that this is a new and rapidly evolving scene and that we all have a lot to learn.

5. CommuteSmartNH Update

Vincent reported on the CommuteSmartNH Program and plans for the fall Busses, Bikes, and Brooms Challenge. The 2023 Buses, Bikes, and Brooms Challenge starts on October 1 and runs the whole month. Participants are encouraged to log all commutes to work and school that are not done alone in a single passenger car. The Challenge coincides with two other statewide events, the Community Transportation

Month and the Week Without Driving. AgileMile is the software behind the Challenge, and every time there is a Challenge in May and October, usership doubles.

6. Ten Year Plan Update

Craig shared some slides and discussed the status of the Ten Year Plan. He noted that the Ten Year Plan is updated on a two year cycle, and noted where we are in that process. The TAC last summer and fall completed our regional rankings and regional TIP, with those results shared with NHDOT. NHDOT used that to prepare a Draft Ten Year Plan for review by the Governor's Advisory Council on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT). At this time the GACIT hearings are ongoing, which presents communities and individuals an opportunity to comment on the Draft Ten Year Plan.

Craig noted that projects that were reported on at the last TAC meeting remain in the plan with the dates unchanged. Project costs have increased across projects, largely due to inflation. It was noted that the I-93 Bow-Concord project has been delayed 3 years, from 2026 in the previous TYP to 2029 in this Draft TYP. It was reported the delay was due to toll revenue and also partly due to DOT and Municipal partnerships.

Craig noted that two of the Regional Priorities from this round's regional TIP are now in the Draft TYP. They include Hopkinton 103/127 Fountain Square, and Hillsborough 9/31/2nd NH Turnpike intersection. There was a brief discussion around the Henniker Hopkinton 202/9/127 intersection. NHDOT is preferring a roundabout solution, and CNHRPC agrees in this approach. NHDOT and the municipalities are still going through the process to choose between the roundabout option, a signal, or grade separation.

Craig noted that an important detail, particularly for the CNHRPC region, is that Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) projects are not currently in the Draft TYP. This is due to the Executive Council wanting more time to review the projects and the selection process before adding them to the plan. Craig noted that our top ranked project in our TIP was Concord's McKee Square, was recommended for CMAQ funding and was anticipated to be in the draft TYP. The Rail Trail and software for CommuteSmartNH are also CMAQ projects that were recommended for funding but are not in the draft TYP.

Craig shared the schedule of GACIT hearing dates in the CNHRPC region, including:

- Thursday October 5, Concord NH
 - District 2, Councilor Warmington
 - 6:30pm NHDOT 7 Hazen Drive–Virtual Option
- Tuesday October 10, Hillsborough NH
 - District 5 Councilor Wheeler
 - 7:00pm Police Department 22 Municipal Drive-Virtual Option
- Wednesday October 18, Epsom NH
 - District 4 Councilor Gatsas
 - Epsom Central School 292 Blackhall Road

Craig shared a map showing the Executive Council Districts, and advised towns and individuals to speak on behalf of projects that are important to them. He also noted the online survey, and the NHDOT web page with all of the information. <https://www.dot.nh.gov/projects-plans-and-programs/ten-year-plan>

8.Next Meeting Date

The next TAC meeting date was scheduled for Friday, December 1 at the same location.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.