

Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission

28 Commercial Street ❖ Concord, NH 03301

Telephone: (603) 226-6020 ❖ Fax: (603) 226-6023 ❖ www.cnhrpc.org



Central NH Regional Planning Commission Full Commission Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2026

7:00pm

Horseshoe Pond Community Resource Room

26 Commercial Street

Concord, NH 03301

and

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83845255971?pwd=J2pZaPb4EwYeDpv21u4x80ASlk9jmM.1>

Meeting ID: 838 4525 5971

Passcode: 5266

Agenda

7:00 Speakers

Steve Fortier, Administrator of Rural Economic Development - NH
Department of Business and Economic Affairs (NH BEA)

Stuart Arnett, Managing Partner – Arnett Development Group, LLC

Mr. Fortier and Mr. Arnett will review Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) program funding possibilities and changes in the required local match in preparation for the Fall NBRC grant round. More information related to the NBRC can be found at www.nbrc.gov.

7:45 Business Meeting

1. Introductions
2. Minutes of the January 8, 2026 Full Commission Meeting
3. Report of the Chair
4. Treasurer's Report
5. New Hampshire Ten Year Transportation Plan Update
6. Regional Plan Public Engagement Update
7. CommuteSmart NH Spring Commute Challenge
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

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CNHRPC Full Commission

Meeting Summary

Thursday January 8, 2026

7:00pm

Horseshoe Pond Community Resource Room w/ Zoom Remote Option

26 Commercial Street

Concord, NH 03301

Commission Attendees

Jim Bibbo, Town of Bradford
Stan Brehm, Town of Pembroke
Barbara Randall, Town of Boscawen
Susie White (Chair), Town of Hillsborough
Keith Johnson, Town of Deering
Joe Schmidl, Town of Salisbury
Kathy Cruson, Town of Pembroke

Barbara Marty, Town of Warner
Ben Frost, Town of Warner
Chuck Frost, Town of Dunbarton
Ken Swayze, Town of Dunbarton
Matthew Hicks, City of Concord
Sanford Way, Town of Chichester

CNHRPC Staff

Michael Tardiff, Executive Director
Matthew Baronas, Principal Planner
Craig Tufts, Senior GIS & Transportation Planner
Stephanie Alexander, Senior Planner
Riley Stafford, Office Support/Outreach Coordinator

Call to Order, Introductions

The January 8, 2026, CNHRPC Full Commission Meeting was called to order by Chair Susie White at approximately 7:00 PM. The opening of the meeting was followed by brief introductions from both in-person and remote attendees.

Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) Process

Mike Tardiff opened the discussion of the Ten-Year Plan by noting that the Commission had long anticipated a substantive discussion on the gas tax and the Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP). He reflected that in prior cycles, the Commission had been reluctant to publicly engage in statewide revenue conversations; however, the current \$400 million shortfall in the TYP had heightened the urgency. Eight regional projects had lost construction funding, prompting the need

for a broader discussion about transportation revenue options. Mike then turned the floor over to Craig Tufts.

Craig presented an extensive overview of the TYP process, revenue constraints, and the statewide and regional impacts of the \$400 million shortfall. He explained that the TYP, which is updated every two years, must remain fiscally constrained. Inflation, indirect cost increases, delayed projects, and rising construction costs had collectively over-programmed the plan. Craig subsequently reviewed the statewide project impacts, including a list of projects in the CNHRPC region that had been removed from the TYP or have had construction funding removed. These included:

- **Boscawen** - King Street Reconstruction: Construction funding removed despite years of advancement and design costs.
- **Bow** - NH 3A Intersections (Grandview Drive and Dow/River Road): Design completed; construction funding removed.
- **Loudon/Canterbury** - NH 106 Widening: Middle segment removed from construction schedule. The last phase of the 106 widening had construction funding removed.
- **Allenstown** - Main Street Improvements: Removed from the TYP despite major drainage, access, and school-area safety needs.
- **Dunbarton** - Pages Corner Roundabout: Removed; current all-way stop may warrant reevaluation.
- **Hillsborough** - US 202/NH 31 Intersection: Removed despite significant safety concerns and new commercial activity.
- **Hillsborough** - Henniker Street Improvements: Ranked #1 regionally but not added to the TYP.
- **Hopkinton** - Fountain Square Improvements: Removed despite longstanding local planning and revitalization goals.

Craig reviewed the Turnpike System revenue challenges, noting that toll revenue has remained flat while operating and rehabilitation costs have increased. NH DOT had presented an option for a \$1 toll increase at major plazas, which would fully fund the Turnpike capital program while remaining among the lowest per-mile toll rates in the country.

The Commission discussed the potential gas tax, noting that a 5-cent increase would help to restore the TYP projects and increase municipal block grant funding. Members discussed political feasibility, border-state competitiveness, and the need for additional research on gas tax rates in neighboring states, including MA, ME, and VT. Following a comprehensive discussion, the Commission considered whether to take a formal position supporting increased transportation revenue.

A motion was made by Stan Brehm to support increased revenues through tolls and the gas tax for the continued maintenance and improvement of New Hampshire's highway infrastructure. The motion was seconded by Kathy Cruson. The motion passed, with the majority in favor; one opposed; and no abstentions. The Chair noted that the motion would allow staff to accurately represent the Commission's position in statewide discussions and legislative testimony.

After the voting concluded, members highlighted the significance of preserving essential infrastructure, the advantages provided by toll revenue, and the necessity for statewide investment. Ben Frost backed the motion, asserting that the upkeep and enhancement of highways are a core responsibility of government. Jim Bibbo raised concerns about defining a gas tax figure without a thorough examination of the effects on neighboring states.

Approval of June 2025 Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the June 12, 2025 meeting minutes for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ken Swayze. The motion was seconded by Barbara Randall. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the Chair

Susie White reflected on the significance of the TYP discussion. Mike Tardiff emphasized that the conversation would continue over the next six months and that more public awareness was needed regarding the loss of regional projects.

Treasurer's Report

Mike Tardiff delivered the Treasurer's Report for consideration. He noted that the month of November was a tight month for revenue; which is historically common. This is primarily because of several holidays occurring throughout the month. Expenses were in line with standard monthly operational expenses. Mike ended the report by indicating that, overall, things are looking positive for the fiscal year.

Staff Reports

Matt Baronas provided the group with a staff report for the evening. He noted that traffic counting fieldwork for the season had concluded, and Commission staff are now focused on data analysis. Matt indicated all traffic count reports have since been posted to the CNHRPC website, including new hourly-level reporting. Road Surface Management System (RSMS) assessments were completed for several towns, including pavement condition forecasting and coordination with road agents. This work aligns with the ongoing capital improvements program development in Epsom.

Other Business

No additional business was raised

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission
Profit and Loss YTD Comparison
February 2026

	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jul 25-Feb 26</u>	<u>FY26 Budget</u>	<u>%</u>
Income				
4000 · Regional Planning				
EPA Brownfields Assessment Program	0.00	649.83	3,500.00	18.6%
Hazard Mitigation Planning Program	2,441.25	11,797.50	17,000.00	69.4%
NBRC LDD Assistance	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.0%
NFWF Crossing Navigators Program	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.0%
Regional Plan Update	6,909.38	32,736.56	72,000.00	45.5%
CDFA Transformational Grant	0.00	6,024.34	6,024.34	100.0%
Total 4000 · Regional Planning	<u>9,350.63</u>	<u>51,208.23</u>	<u>103,524.34</u>	<u>49.5%</u>
4100 · Local Planning Projects				
InvestNH Housing Zoning/Regulations	5,801.25	49,090.30	54,000.00	90.9%
Bow Master Plan Update	1,000.00	10,850.00	12,000.00	90.4%
Allenstown MS4 planning/coordination	0.00	893.75	2,000.00	44.7%
Pembroke MS4 planning/coordination	0.00	1,153.75	2,000.00	57.7%
Total 4100 · Local Planning Projects	<u>6,801.25</u>	<u>61,987.80</u>	<u>71,000.00</u>	<u>87.3%</u>
Development Review				
Development Review	657.50	7,148.10	10,000.00	71.5%
Total · Development Review	<u>657.50</u>	<u>7,148.10</u>	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>71.5%</u>
4300 · Circuit Rider				
PB/EDC/GIS Circuit Rider Agreements	8,227.50	41,868.75	71,230.00	58.8%
Total 4300 · Circuit Rider	<u>8,227.50</u>	<u>41,868.75</u>	<u>71,230.00</u>	<u>58.8%</u>
5000 · Transportation Planning				
Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) program	0.00	0.00	6,240.00	0.0%
NHDOT Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)	16,126.25	157,129.79	278,218.00	56.5%
Total 5000 · Transportation Planning	<u>16,126.25</u>	<u>157,129.79</u>	<u>284,458.00</u>	<u>55.2%</u>
6900 · Local Dues	10,816.00	85,635.00	129,792.00	66.0%
6901 · Other Services & Income				
Land Use Handbooks	0.00	0.00	2,275.00	0.0%
Interest on Deposits & CD's	1.49	6.28	0.00	N/A
NHARPC Website	0.00	750.00	1,500.00	50.0%
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00	0.0%	N/A
Total 6901 · Other Services & Income	<u>1.49</u>	<u>756.28</u>	<u>3,775.00</u>	<u>20.0%</u>
Total Income	<u>51,980.62</u>	<u>405,733.95</u>	<u>673,779.34</u>	<u>60.2%</u>

Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission
Profit and Loss YTD Comparison
February 2026

	Feb 26	Jul 25-Feb 26	FY26 Budget	%
Expense				
7000 · Salaries				
Permanent Salaries/Interns	35,483.50	273,279.75	414,471.25	65.9%
Total 7000 · Salaries	35,483.50	273,279.75	414,471.25	65.9%
7100 · Payroll, Taxes & Benefits				
Payroll Taxes - FICA/SUTA/FUTA	2,647.48	20,653.34	31,499.82	65.6%
Medical Insurance	2,783.66	18,436.32	32,950.00	56.0%
Dental Insurance	363.80	3,872.01	6,400.00	60.5%
Life Insurance	11.90	95.20	300.00	31.7%
Disability Insurance	133.40	1,067.20	1,800.00	59.3%
Accident Insurance	49.08	392.64	1,500.00	26.2%
Employee Retirement - SIMPLE	1,052.12	8,053.30	14,000.00	57.5%
Workers' Comp Insurance	0.00	1,172.00	1,172.00	100.0%
Total 7100 · Payroll, Taxes & Benefits	7,041.44	53,742.01	89,621.82	60.0%
8000 · Service Expenses				
Professional Consulting Serv.	0.00	828.10	4,500.00	18.4%
Land Use Regulation Handbooks	0.00	0.00	2,345.80	0.0%
Total 8000 · Service Expenses	0.00	828.10	6,845.80	12.1%
9000 · Office and administration exp.				
Accounting - Payroll Processing	517.38	4,132.80	8,250.00	50.1%
Advert. and other Recruitment expenses	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.0%
Bank Fees-Finance/Service Chrgs	0.00	545.00	500.00	109.0%
Dues & subscriptions	0.00	1,000.00	2,500.00	40.0%
Insurance, property & liability	293.27	6,055.46	9,750.00	62.1%
Lease - Equipment	719.51	5,756.08	7,800.00	73.8%
Office Rent	1,689.00	13,515.45	20,276.28	66.7%
Office Space Utilities/CAM/Taxes	0.00	7,929.55	14,000.00	56.6%
Postage & shipping	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.0%
Prof. Auditing	0.00	21,735.00	46,000.00	47.3%
Services & Maint. Computers	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.0%
Supplies - Office	0.00	129.36	1,200.00	10.8%
Telephone & internet	457.79	4,046.04	5,200.00	77.8%
Training & Workshops	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Travel	137.27	1,018.01	1,500.00	67.9%
Meals	0.00	0.00	225.00	0.0%
Vehicle Maintenance/Insur/Gas	0.00	587.90	1,750.00	33.6%
Equip - Computers	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.0%
Equip - Software	2,600.00	21,077.50	32,427.50	65.0%
Equip - Traffic Count	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.0%
Website Development	0.00	0.00	1,400.00	0.0%
Miscellaneous / other expenses	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.0%
Total 9000 · Office and administration exp.	6,414.22	87,528.15	156,978.78	55.8%
Total Expense	48,939.16	415,378.01	667,917.65	62.2%
Net Income	3,041.46	(9,644.06)	5,861.69	