

Central NH Regional Planning Commission

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Transportation Advisory Committee

March 4, 2016

Approved Minutes

Bow Municipal Building, Bow, 10 Grandview Road, Bow

9:00 A.M.

Attendees	
Barbara Annis, Town of Warner	Larry Anderson, Town of Allenstown
Dan Blanchette, Town of Hopkinton	Betsy Bosiak, Town of Epsom
Emilio Cancio-Bello, Town of Sutton	Ted Mitchell, Town of Pittsfield
Richard Moore, Town of Chichester	Stanley Prescott, Town of Loudon
Jim Pritchard, Town of Pittsfield	Heather Shank, City of Concord
Matt Taylor, Town of Bow	Christine Trovato, Town of Henniker
Tim White, SNHPC	Harry Wright, Town of Bradford, CNHRPC

Commission Staff: Sam Durfee, Steve Henninger, Michael Larson, Jennifer Mock, Michael Tardiff, Craig Tufts, Dean Williams

The meeting began at 9:06 A.M, called to order by Chair, Barbara Annis.

Introductions

All TAC members and guests present introduced themselves.

Review and Approve Minutes of the January 8, 2016 TAC Meeting

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January 8th, 2016 TAC meeting as written.

M/S/Passed Ted Mitchell/Christine Trovato

NHDOT Update

Dean Williams noted that Bill Watson was unable to attend the meeting but he could provide a quick update. Mr. Williams then provided TAC members with PowerPoint presentation from Mr. Watson that was recently given to the House Public Works Committee by the NHDOT Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner. This presentation contained information relating to the draft State Ten Year Plan (TYP) funding and the recently passed Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) funding. Mr.

Williams noted that this long term federal transportation authorization will allow NHDOT to move forward more quickly with several projects in the que around the region. He also noted that one of the new components of the FAST Act is an emphasis on freight planning and freight infrastructure. A discussion followed regarding freight in the region and the potential to complete a regional freight study as a UPWP Special Project. Tim White (SNHPC) added that Leigh Levine from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be providing more information on the FAST Act's freight initiatives during the Southern NH Planning Commission's TAC meeting on March 17. He then invited anyone interested to attend. Mr. Williams agreed to send more information out about that meeting as a follow up. A question was raised as to why New Hampshire receives the least amount of funding out of any State. Mr. Williams replied that it was likely based on an old formula to determine distribution of funds and that there has been discussion at NHDOT to look more into it.

Special Projects

- **Concord Pedestrian Master Plan**

Craig Tufts shared the progress of the Concord Master Plan indicating that the public outreach portion of the project was completed and the findings have been included in the draft plan which will go before the City of Concord Planning Board for adoption when completed sometime later this Spring or early Summer. There are three main objectives of the plan – accessibility for walkers of all abilities, safety and an enjoyable experience. From the outreach that was completed three outcomes were identified – the need for a better transportation system, improved public health and the economic benefit. The Transportation Policy and Advisory Committee (TPAC) worked to create a vision statement that will be used for the plan. “Concord will be a community where walking is a safe, practical, and enjoyable means of transportation and recreation for people of all abilities.”

- **Bow RSMS & Culvert Inventory Project Request**

Dean Williams provided the progress of the Bow RSMS project by informing the TAC that CNHRPC is continuing to work with NHDOT and UNH on the RSMS project. The data collection among all nine regional planning commissions has been completed and quality checks and analysis of the collection efforts within the towns are ongoing. CNHRPC passed the quality check and analysis portion of the project and now are waiting for the forecasting and budgeting training which will be coming at the end of the month. There is a possibility for additional culvert analysis this summer. The towns of Deering and Dunbarton have expressed in interest in completing an RSMS project. Since the Bow RSMS is only a pilot project for the new RSMS program, NHDOT is ensuring that the program is solid before allowing CNHRPC to begin other new projects.

- **CAT Boarding and Alighting Study**

Dean Williams provided an update on CNHRPC's progress with the Concord Boarding and Alighting Study stating that the draft report of the study will go to the TPAC meeting next month. During the study the Concord Area Transit (CAT) buses were re-routed to Storrs Street from Main Street due to the construction. While some local businesses would have

preferred the buses remain on Storrs Street, the State, the City and CAT decided to return the buses to Main Street. The data collection completed by CNHRPC for the study helped support the bus schedule return to Main Street. There have been some discussions to re-do the CAT bus schedule. Steve Henninger asked if there were any “surprises” that came out of the study. Mr. Williams answered there were a few including younger individuals riding the bus especially along the NHTI (Crosstown) route. The buses saw a slight decrease in ridership except for the Penacook Route, which stops at Concord Hospital and has seen a steady increase in ridership over the past several years.

- Concord – Franklin Transit Feasibility Study

Mike Tardiff noted that it has been difficult scheduling an initial meeting of the study committee and coordinating with all parties involved. The overall purpose of the study is to develop a cost/benefit analysis to determine whether it is feasible to extend the CAT bus service from Concord to Franklin. The study will be ongoing over the next 5 to 6 months and the committee hopes to determine if there is a case for the need for the additional route. There seems to be increasing support for the possible connection. Ted Mitchell (Pittsfield) asked if there was success for the study would there be a possibility of a route in Pittsfield even for an AM or PM route. Mr. Tardiff noted that not only does the need for the transportation have to be there but the cash match needed to fund the route does as well. Often times that can be a difficult task.

Regional Updates/Other Business

- Regional Traffic Counting Program

Dean Williams noted that 2016 traffic counting request letters have been sent to all of the region’s towns. The requests are not due back until April 8, 2016. If Mr. Williams has not received a request from a specific town, he noted that he would send out a reminder like he has done in the past. Mr. Williams mentioned that CNHRPC staff can complete various types of counts including class and speed counts, radar counts, bike counts on roadways and trails and also pedestrian counts. There was discussion among members present about creating a traffic counting program within towns which would include an ongoing rotation of counts each year as to avoid duplicating or trying to choose count locations annually. Bow and Warner are currently the only towns with traffic counting programs.

- Commute Smart Central NH

Mike Tardiff discussed Commute Smart NH which is the new Transportation Demand Program throughout the state. Over the past few years CNHRPC has been working with other agencies and RPCs throughout the state to re-brand and re-work the previous program – Commute Green NH. The new program is about to go live with their new website which contains individual pages to each region’s program as well as the portal to the State’s Rideshare Program and an area for individuals to log their trips. CNHRPC received funding from the NH Charitable Foundation to further this program along. The State Rideshare software has been underutilized. Commute Smart NH is hoping to draw more traffic to the rideshare program and increase ridesharing for a better coordinated

transportation program. Barbara Annis (Warner) asked if this program could assist communities in increasing the space of local park and rides. Mr. Tardiff noted that the program does mention park and rides but it is more or less advertising to their use for carpooling. Dean Williams mentioned that the park and ride near the Concord Trailways station in Concord has recently increased their parking since it was reaching its capacity. This expansion was done using Congestion, Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. CNHRPC staff completes monthly park and ride counts along the I-93 corridor from Hooksett to Tilton. Discussion was had among members regarding park and rides throughout the region. Mr. Williams mentioned a Park & Ride Toolkit, a 140-page document that was developed that lays out multiple different processes to establish a park and ride facility and ways to achieve funding sources for a park and ride. Mr. Williams will send the document to TAC members following the meeting.

- Mid State Regional Coordinating Council

Dean Williams provided the Mid State Regional Coordinating Council (Mid State RCC) update since Larisa Djuvelek-Ruggiero from CAPBMCI was unable to attend. Mr. Williams noted the Volunteer Driver Program numbers continued to remain steady other than the typical drop in January. Rides are averaging around 400-500 per month. Mr. Williams mentioned that the Mid State RCC is currently working on an agreement between CNHRPC, Merrimack County Department of Corrections (MCDOC) and D&B Taxi Service in order to provide taxi rides to individuals 60 years of age or older or persons with a disability. CNHRPC has received \$6,000 in funding under the 5310 Purchase of Service Grant for these rides. MCDOC will be providing the 20% cash match required for the program. This pilot program will allow eligible inmates the opportunity to receive a taxi ride to find a job, live at home, etc. rather than continuing to reside at the prison even after they are eligible to leave.

- Other Business

Steve Henninger mentioned that the 2nd part of the Concord Main Street Improvement project from Pleasant Street to the Capital Center for the Arts is set to begin in the Spring. Construction will include one-way lanes, turn lane, bump outs, wider sidewalks, etc. just like what was completed in Phase 1 of the project.

Next Meeting Date

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for May 6th, 2016 at 9:00 A.M., at the Bow Town Hall.

Meeting Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:13 A.M.