

**Central NH Regional Planning Commission**

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**Transportation Advisory Committee**

**June 7, 2019**

**Minutes**

Bow Municipal Building, Bow, 10 Grandview Road, Bow

9:00 A.M.

<b>Attendees</b>	
Matt Taylor, Town of Bow	Richard Moore, Town of Chichester
David Cedarholm, City of Concord	Betsy Bosiak, Town of Epsom, TAC Chair
Carolyn Cronin, Town of Pembroke	Bob Cole, Town of Loudon, TAC Vice Chair
Bianca Acebron Peco, Town of Webster	Tim Blagden, Town of Warner
Cindy Yanski, Mid State Mobility Manager - BMCAP	Lucy St. John, NHDOT

**Commission Staff:** Dean Williams, Mike Tardiff

The meeting began at 9:10 AM, called to order by Chair, Betsy Bosiak.

**Introductions**

All TAC members and guests present introduced themselves.

**Review and Approve Minutes of the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 TAC Meeting**

After one minor spelling correction, a motion was made to accept the minutes of the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 TAC meeting.

*M/S/Passed Unanimously Matt Taylor/Bob Cole*

**NHDOT Statewide Freight Plan**

Lucy St. John introduced herself and provided some background on the NH Freight Plan noting that it was approved by FHWA on February 11, 2019. NHDOT developed the plan as a Federal requirement to access National Highway Freight Program Funding (NHFP), to inform planning and programming decisions as well as to address freight goals, objectives and performance measures. NH receives about \$4.5 million annually for the NHFP. NH's freight system includes the various transportation systems including highway, rail, airport and marine (port and harbor terminals) as well as pipelines. Freight planning is important for the economy, quality of life and to continue to be prepared for changing technology. NH relies on a global economy and the NH

Freight plan shows examples of the supply chains and how goods travel across the world to get on the shelves of NH stores or to the homes of residents.

Lucy noted that the Freight Plan was developed with the help of a consultant as well as a State Freight Advisory Committee. The committee has not met since the plan was approved but it is likely that they will schedule future meetings. During the plan development process there were multiple public meetings, a public survey and stakeholder interviews. She continued to explain that trucks are used to ship 95% of the goods in NH and that truck tonnage is anticipated to grow by 2.6% annually. Transportation costs account for approximately 10% of the cost of products. It's important to consider NH's reliance on trucking and the road network that trucks use. The mode that is used for shipping is typically consumer driven.

Lucy presented some key findings on the Port of Portsmouth, noting that exports are expected to increase. The Port has had some major dredging improvements and there is still opportunity for the Port to expand. Major imports include petroleum products and road salt. She also explained that air freight is expected to grow robustly through 2040 increasing by almost 47% from \$6.6 billion to \$11.5 billion. Air freight in NH is often electrical, manufacturing and optical equipment (high value). There is also a consumer component to the air freight including next day or two day shipping for goods purchased online. The rail system typically moves large heavy goods such as lumber, sand and gravel in and out of NH. The Bow Powerplant was using the rail system for coal shipments but the plant is now only used on a stand-by, high demand basis resulting in limited use and need for rail at this time. Despite the limited rail freight, it is expected to grow due to sand and gravel shipments to MA.

There was a brief discussion on the term bottlenecks. The TAC discussed that bottlenecks could be a physical lane reduction on a highway, a mode shift where a good is transferred between transportation modes, or an area where congestion slows the movement of goods. Dean also explained to the TAC the difference between congestion and travel time reliability, where congestion that reoccurs often would just be considered normal and trucks would be prepared for the delay, roads that congest infrequently and sporadically effect the consistency of the travel times and create more significant issues with freight.

### **Mid State RCC Update**

Dean Williams informed the TAC that the Coordinated Plan was near completion and that Lakes Region RPC was completed the final formatting of the document. Dean shared the Goal and Implementation Strategies section with TAC members as well as the FTA Section 5310 Purchase of Service ridership figures. He explained the programs including the Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties Inc (CAPBMCI) Rural Transit Service, the CAPBMCI Volunteer Driver Program and the Merrimack County Department of Corrections Taxi Voucher Program.

Cindy Yanski, Mid State RCC Regional Mobility Manager was also present. She followed up Dean's initial comments with more details and specifics about the Volunteer Driver Program. She concluded that she is actively recruiting volunteer drivers and working on getting the word out about the transportation services in the region. Tim Blagden inquired about the bicycle and pedestrian related implementation strategy in the Draft Coordinated Plan. Dean noted that there is FTA funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to support transit including things like bus shelters or bike racks on busses. The intent was to identify that strategy in case there is a project proposed in the future since funding is only awarded if it's documented in the plan.

## **Regional Updates**

### **Suncook Valley Rail Trail Plan**

Mike noted that the plan is near completion and a presentation of the plan is scheduled in Epsom on Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

### **Commute Smart Central NH**

Mike stated that the CommuteSmart NH June Challenge was underway. He noted that there are nearly 50 businesses statewide that are participating in the challenge.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. at the Bow Town Offices.

### **Other Business**

Betsy Bosiak informed the TAC that her and Matt Monahan (CNHRPC) would be developing a presentation on easements and right of ways for the CNHRPC Full Commission meeting in September. She asked that TAC members share any cases they were aware of in their towns where easements and right of way topics have been at the forefront.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the TAC meeting at 10:45am.

*M/S/Passed Unanimously Matt Taylor/Tim Blagden*