

Central NH Regional Planning Commission

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Transportation Advisory Committee

May 3, 2019

Minutes

Bow Municipal Building, Bow, 10 Grandview Road, Bow

9:00 A.M.

Attendees	
Matt Taylor, Town of Bow	Rob Mack, City of Concord
David Cedarholm, City of Concord	Betsy Bosiak, Town of Epsom
David White, Town of Hopkinton	Bob Cole, Town of Loudon
Carolyn Cronin, Town of Pembroke	Emilio Cancio-Bello, Town of Sutton
Craig Fournier, 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, Katie Nelson, Craig Tufts, Steve Henninger

The meeting began at 9:05 AM, called to order by Chair, Betsy Bosiak.

Introductions

All TAC members and guests present introduced themselves.

Review and Approve Minutes of the April 5th, 2019 TAC Meeting

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the March 1st, 2019 TAC meeting.

M/S/Passed Unanimously Dave White/Matt Taylor

Regional Rail Trails

Tim Blagden, Concord to Lake Sunapee Rail Trail President, introduced himself and the Concord to Lake Sunapee Rail Trail which begins in Concord then passes through, Hopkinton, Webster, Warner, Sutton and Bradford before reaching Newbury. The majority of the old rail bed still exists along the corridor and is owned by a variety of public and private landowners. A handful of sections have been developed into rail trails for public use and there are ongoing efforts to keep developing more sections. He noted that it's important to keep local identity for each section of trail.

Tim referred to the independent utility of each section that is built and how important it is to respect landowner rights. Having highly visible sections constructed also helps with willingness of nearby landowners to consider providing easements. Even with volunteers and donations there are still costs to build trails. He tracks costs, contractors and grant opportunities in spreadsheets while continuing to focus on sections of trails.

A question was asked if the trails demonstrate any history of the railroad. Tim responded that there are mile marker posts as well as other signs of the old railroad along the corridor that are visible from the trails. The kiosks at the trailheads also offer a space to share the history. He then shared some photos of benches that are being purchased which are built from old rail car wheels.

Tim concluded his presentation by emphasizing that rail trails are often used for both transportation and recreation. The trails draw people in from far away and are well known to benefit the local economies. He believes the Central NH Region is a prime area for trails as a destination for people to visit. Additional discussions were had regarding the Merrimack River Greenway Trail and the Suncook Valley Rail Trail plan that CNHRPC is in the process of working on. The Suncook Valley Rail trail corridor is very similar to the Concord to Claremont line in that there are a variety of private and public land owners, some already established trails and small sections that can be formalized and upgraded.

NHDOT Update

Lucy St. John noted that the NHDOT Freight Plan has been approved. She noted that she would be doing presentations to Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) across the state. She also mentioned that the Ten Year Plan is in the process of being drafted, noting that regional priorities have been submitted from the RPCs.

Lucy and Dean then provided the TAC with information regarding the 2019 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program. There will be \$13.5 million in federal funding available this round for projects that can reduce single occupancy vehicles therefore reducing congestion and improving the air quality. Typical projects include transit projects, intersection & signalization projects and bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure. A question was asked regarding the funding needing to be spent in certain “non-attainment” areas in the state. The funding is available to be spent throughout the state with no restrictions on attainment areas. Letters of interest are mandatory but non-binding and need to be submitted by June 7th. Applications will be due in September.

Commute Smart NH

Katie Nelson provided an update on the upcoming CommuteSmart NH June Challenge. She then demonstrated the NH Rideshare ride-matching website. She also demonstrated the Commute Smart NH commute calendar where users can log their trips and compete for prizes. Craig Fournier added that in Colorado they often set up breakfast stations for people carpooling or actively commuting. Katie responded that there are two breakfast stations planned for National Bike/Walk to Work day on May 17th – one at the Statehouse and one on Hazen Drive at the State Offices.

Mid-State RCC

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 then introduced Cindy Yanski, Mid State RCC Regional Mobility Manager. She will be assisting with he the FTA 5310 Elderly and Persons with Disabilities programs in the region. She will also be available to meet with municipalities or groups who have unmet transportation needs.

Next Meeting Date

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for June 7th, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. at the Bow Town Offices.

Other Business

David Cederholm announced that it was Rob Mack's last meeting, as he will be retiring in two weeks. TAC members congratulated Rob on his retirement and thanked Rob for his years on the committee and subcommittees. Rob thanked fellow TAC members adding that he enjoyed working with everyone over the years.

Meeting Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the TAC meeting at 10:40am.

M/S/Passed Unanimously Matt Taylor/Rob Mack