

Central NH Regional Planning Commission

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Transportation Advisory Committee

May 6, 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
Julie Chen, SNHPC	Larisa Djuvelek-Ruggiero, Mid-State Rcc, CAPBMCI
Dean Hollins, Town of Boscawen	Steve Laurin, Town of Dunbarton
Leigh Levine, FHWA	Rob Mach, City of Concord
Jim Pritchard, Town of Pittsfield	Harry Wright, Town of Bradford

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

The meeting began at 9:04 A.M, called to order by Chair, Barbara Annis.

Introductions

All TAC members and guests present introduced themselves.

Review and Approve Minutes of the March 4, 2016 TAC Meeting

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the March 4, 2016 TAC meeting as written.

M/S/Passed Larry Anderson/Steve Laurin

Fixing Americas Surface Transportation (FAST) Act Update

Leigh Levine from Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) provided the latest updates on the FAST Act. He started his presentation by mentioning that this is the first long term transportation bill in a decade however this five-year program will still not bring in enough funding to cover all of the needs. There is an average 10% higher funding level for FY 2016 than in FY 2015. Mr. Levine provided an overview and changes to the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) and Surface Transportation Program (STP) now renamed Surface Block Grant Program (STBG). These two programs contain the most amounts of

funding. Mr. Levine also outlined notable changes to the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program and Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Mr. Levine discussed in detail the new National Highway Freight Program which will help enable eligible activities include construction, operational improvements, freight planning and performance measures for freight type projects. There is an average of \$1.2 billion in funding which will be apportioned to States by formula. A number of example projects throughout NH and the Central NH region were discussed among members present. By 2018, NH DOT will need a Statewide Freight Plan in place. Other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) will also be completing their own plans, however at this time are not required to do so but are encouraged. Dean Williams mentioned that CNHRPC is also considering completing a regional freight study.

Mr. Levine ended his presentation discussing other planning and performance measures related to the FAST Act, many of which have carried over from MAP-21. He noted that the rule making for FAST Act is ongoing and updates will continue to go out as they are developed.

Public Involvement Plan

Dean Williams and Steve Henninger provided an update of the CNHRPC Public Involvement Plan (PIP) and its process. A Draft copy of the updated PIP was provided to TAC members present and members were encouraged to review and provide any feedback, questions or comments they may have. The PIP outlines the process in which the public is notified and allows for participation of transportation planning and projects within the region, ensuring that all residents have an opportunity to be involved. The plan should be updated every five years, however only MPOs are required to do so. Mr. Williams mentioned that CNHRPC is looking to have the TAC recommend the PIP to the CNHRPC Full Commission for adoption once the public comment period is complete.

Special Projects

- **Concord Pedestrian Master Plan**

Craig Tufts shared the progress of the Concord Master Plan indicating that the public input portion is complete and the draft plan has gone to the Transportation Policy and Advisory Committee (TPAC) for review. The group is still working on putting together the engineering plan to develop considerations for the Master Plan. Current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects are being used as examples based on their levels of significance - the Main Street Project is a good example. The top three objectives of the Master Plan are - accessibility for walkers of all abilities, safety and an enjoyable experience.

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

Dean Williams noted that CNHRPC is continuing to work with NH DOT and UNH on the RSMS project. CNHRPC staff attended an 8-hour forecasting and budgeting training on how to select roads, provide cost estimates and evaluate rates of degradation among roads. Although inventorying culverts is a separate project it has been completed in conjunction with the RSMS project. While NH DOT is ensuring that the program is solid before allowing

CNHRPC to begin other new projects, staff is hopeful that the pilot program will be completed in Fall 2016.

- Concord – Franklin Transit Feasibility Study

Mike Tardiff stated that the last meeting for the Concord-Franklin Transit Feasibility Study was held at the end of March. Members from Concord Area Transit and Winnepesaukee Transit also attended the meeting. The Committee is currently working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for consultant assistance on the project. Since CMAQ funding will now be opened up to the rest of the state this is an excellent opportunity to receive potential funding for the project if the need is determined.

Regional Updates/Other Business

- Regional Traffic Counting Program

Dean Williams announced that staff put out the first traffic count for 2016 on May 5th. Traffic Counting requests have been received from many towns throughout the region and Mr. Williams sent follow-up requests to those towns who had not yet responded. Mr. Williams reiterated that it was a good idea for towns to consider creating a long range traffic counting program which would include an ongoing rotation of counts each year as to avoid duplicating or trying to choose count locations annually.

- Commute Smart Central NH

Mike Tardiff provided an overview of the work that has been completed by CNHRPC and other agencies and RPCs throughout the state over the past few years to re-brand and re-work the previous program, Commute Green NH, which is now called CommuteSmart NH. CommuteSmart NH, a Transportation Demand Management Program (TDM), which contains the State rideshare software program to help individuals match rides, a trip logger program where individuals can enter their smart commutes for biking, walking, carpooling, telecommuting and using public transit, as well as a source for statewide events. Craig Tufts added that while CommuteSmart NH is still unfolding bit by bit, staff is gearing up for Bike to Work Week which runs May 16-20, 2016. On Bike to Work Day, May 20th, Smart Commute Breakfasts will be held in front of the Statehouse and at the State Office Park on Hazen Drive. Other events include the Annual Bike Swap at S&W Sports and the Bike Valet at the Rock n' Race.

- Mid State Regional Coordinating Council

Larisa Djuvelek-Ruggiero from CAPBMCI, provided the Mid State Regional Coordinating Council (Mid State RCC) update for March. Rides are remaining steady at 485 in the month of March and 36 drivers. In total the Volunteer Driver Program has provided 22,000+/- rides since it began in 2012.

Ms. Djuvelek-Ruggiero mentioned that Taxi Voucher Program contracts are complete, aligned with FDA, ADA and NH DOT laws and regulations and meet the requirements of the

grant. D&B Taxi Service and Granite State Independent Living have been identified as partners and contracts will be sent to them in the next few weeks. Mid State RCC is hoping to be providing Taxi-Voucher rides by the end of May.

Ms. Djuvelek-Ruggiero added that they are in the process of updating the Ride Resource Directory and are looking for organizations and towns to join the Mid-State RCC. If anyone is interested she asked them to reach out to her.

- 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 well underway. Rob Mack noted that it is actually a bit ahead of schedule.

Barabara Annis noted that Warner opened bids on the roundabout off of Exit 9 off I-89. Only two bids were received which were both over budget.

Next Meeting Date

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for June 3, 2016 at 9:00 A.M., at the Bow Town Hall.

Meeting Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:11 A.M.