

**Central NH Regional Planning Commission**

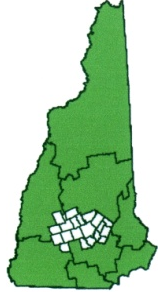
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**Transportation Advisory Committee**

**October 2, 2015**

**Minutes**

Bow Municipal Building, Bow, 10 Grandview Road, Bow

9:00 A.M.

<b>Attendees</b>	
Barbara Annis, Town of Warner	Tim Blagden, BWANH
Betsy Bosiak, Town of Epsom	Neal Cass, Town of Hopkinton
Bob Cole, Town of Loudon	Larisa Djuvelek-Ruggiero, Mid-State RCC, CAPBMCI
Dean Hollis, Town of Boscawen	Ted Houston, Town of Boscawen
Rob Mack, City of Concord	Ted Mitchell, Town of Pittsfield
Richard Moore, Town of Chichester	Jim Pritchard, Town of Pittsfield
Christine Trovato, Town of Henniker	Bill Watson, NHDOT
Tim White, SNHPC	Harry Wright, Town of Bradford, CNHRPC

**Commission Staff:** Sam Durfee, Steve Henninger, Mike Tardiff

The meeting began at 9:02 A.M, called to order by Chair, Barbara Annis.

**Introductions**

All TAC members and guests present introduced themselves.

**Review Minutes of the August 7th, 2015 TAC Meeting**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the August 7th, 2015 TAC meeting as written.

*M/S/Passed Ted Mitchell/Harry Wright*

## **NHDOT Update**

Bill Watson began the update by informing the TAC on the progress of the GACIT public hearings. Mr. Watson has attended nine of ten hearings and said most have been well attended by the public. One important take-away Mr. Watson mentioned was that there has been a subtle shift in mindset, in reference to projects on the Ten Year Plan, from “where is my project” to “we are not looking far enough ahead”. The public has recognized the need to plan for the state’s aging population.

Mr. Watson noted that NHDOT is exploring options in flexing funds, up to 50%, from CMAC and HSIP in an effort to find creative funding. The program cost is \$3.58 billion with over programming of about \$130 million, accounting for 3.2% inflation. Mr. Watson stated \$130 million for over programming is a relatively small number. He expressed NHDOT’s desire that the Ten Year Plan be “solid”. He said the goal is to keep projects on schedule and on budget and if a project seems to be off-track, the scope will be narrowed.

In regards to the I-93 expansion, Mr. Watson explained NHDOT is exploring a federal loan program, TIFIA (Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act), as method to pay for the expansion. NHDOT applied for a \$200 million and was approved for a 1% loan with ten-year deferment. NHDOT will have to bond the project using toll credits, but this would nullify the gas tax increase of SB-367 and will free up funds to focus on secondary roads. NHDOT hopes they will be able to make improvements on all state roads every ten years.

Mr. Watson explained that the Bow-Concord I-93 project has a price tag of \$190 million and under current funding models, will be completed during the 2032-2033 fiscal year. If a 28% toll increase is approved, the estimated completion date will fall within the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Toll rates are controlled by the executive council.

Tim Blagden asked in regards to the NH 106 widen project if there will be sufficient shoulders on NH 106 after the widening for bicyclists and if there will be signal hardware at intersections that recognize bicyclists. Mr. Watson explained, as with most projects, it comes down to the perception of public interest. If there is no public interest, it is less likely the improvement will be made. If there is public interest, the question is then of affordability.

## **Regional Updates/Other Business**

- Regional Traffic Counting Program
  - Sam Durfee provided the TAC with an update on the progress of the regional traffic counts explaining that the last of the traffic counts have been put out and CNHRPC is now waiting to hear back from NHDOT to make sure the counts submitted to the state are of good quality and will be accepted. Mr. Blagden asked if bicyclist counts have been included and Mr. Durfee explained CNHRPC has conducted bicycle counts on Loudon Rd. and a new bicycle counter has been deployed for traffic counting as it is able to discern bikes from cars.

- Mid State Regional Coordinating Council
  - Larisa Djuvelek-Ruggiero provided the TAC with updated ridership numbers for 2015. Ridership in 2015 is noticeably lower than that in 2014. This is most likely due to a decrease in volunteer drivers.

### **Special Projects**

- Concord Pedestrian Master Plan
  - Mike Tardiff shared the progress of the Concord Master Plan explaining the work Craig Tufts of CNHRPC has been doing with the TPAC Bike/Ped subcommittee. There have been two public meetings, the latest was during a storm which may have contributed to lower attendance. The subcommittee will be compiling responses and begin moving forward with the input from the public.
- Bow RSMS
  - Mr. Durfee provided an update on CNHRPC's progress with the Bow RSMS project beginning by reiterating that all the RPC's are conducting a pilot project in one town in their respective regions, following a model developed between NHDOT and UNH's Technology Transfer Center. Mr. Watson supplied an additional explanation of the data collection process, data storage and access, and the project's ramifications for helping towns forecast future road maintenance.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for November 6th, 2015 at 9:00 A.M., in the Bow Town Hall.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 A.M.