

Central NH Regional Planning Commission

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Transportation Advisory Committee

September 8, 2017

DRAFT Minutes

Bow Municipal Building, Bow, 10 Grandview Road, Bow

9:00 A.M.

Attendees	
Barbara Annis, Town of Warner	Elizabeth Strachan, NHDES
Jessica Wilcox, NHDES	Rob Mack, City of Concord
Ted Mitchell, Town of Pittsfield	Richard Moore, Town of Chichester
Stan Prescott, Town of Loudon	Jim Pritchard, Town of Pittsfield
Christine Trovato, Town of Henniker	Harry Wright, Town of Bradford
Cam Prolman, SNHPC	Dean Hollins, Town of Boscawen
Ted Houston, Town of Boscawen	John Stoll, City of Concord
Bill Watson, NHDOT	Larisa, Djuvelek-Ruggiero
Tim Blagden, Town of Warner	Neal Cass, Town of Hopkinton

Commission Staff: Sam Durfee, Katie Nelson, Michael Tardiff, Dean Williams

The meeting began at 9:03 AM, called to order by Chair, Barbara Annis.

Introductions

All TAC members and guests present introduced themselves.

Review and Approve Minutes of the April 7, 2017 TAC Meeting

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2017 TAC meeting as written.

M/S/Passed Christine Trovato/ Ted Mitchell

NHDES Clean Diesel Program

Elizabeth Strachan from the Air Resource Division at NH Department of Environmental Services began her presentation on the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA). DERA is part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and appropriates federal funds for reducing emissions from diesel engines. The funds are distributed into two programs where 70% of the DERA funds are used for a Federal Competitive program, which NH did apply to

use toward the upgrade of NHDOT fleet vehicles. The remaining 30% of the DERA funds are allocated to the states under the DERA State Clean Diesel Grant. NHDES anticipates receiving between \$338,000 to \$550,000 of federal funds to be distributed throughout NH. NHDES manages the funds and sub grants are awarded based on an open solicitation and review process.

DERA funds are encouraged to be used by municipalities to order to upgrade and replace existing diesel engines and vehicles including equipment and buses. Private businesses are also eligible for DERA funds. Federal funds can be used to pay for between 40%-60% of the cost to replaces a diesel engine and between 25%-45% of the cost to replace a diesel vehicle. The vehicles being replaced must be destroyed (engine and chassis) to get reimbursed. The first round of applications will be between October 1 and October 15, 2017.

Transportation Improvement Program/Ten Year Plan

Dean Williams provided a quick review of the Ten-Year Plan (TYP) process beginning with the update to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2019-2028 that was adopted in the Spring. He noted that the only new project from the 2019-2028 TIP that was fully funded in the TYP was the Boscaawen King Street project.

Bill Watson, NHDOT, gave some additional background on the 2019-2028 draft Ten Year Plan process noting that NHDOT added about \$50 million worth of RPC priority projects at the end of the draft 2019-2028 TYP. He noted that two additional projects were included in the 2019-2028 Draft TYP but not through the traditional funding programs. The I-89 Exit 1 on and off ramps will be part of the overall Bow-Concord I-93 expansion project which is included in the Draft TYP with over \$300 million throughout the ten years of the plan. There was also funding included in the Draft TYP to study the effects of the stripping change at the King Road and US Route 4 intersection in Chichester. This is a result of NHDOT Bureau of Community Planning and Assistance finally being fully staffed. They anticipate being able to complete more planning and research projects in the future. The data from the King Road intersection will help determine if there is a need to make more changes in the future.

Mr. Watson added that there have already been two Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transit (GACIT) hearings so far. There will be 19 public hearings total. The only GACIT hearing in the CNHRPC region will be on Wednesday, October 4th at 7:00pm in Room 114 at the NH Department of Transportation. A final hearing will be in held in November to present the findings and themes from all the public hearings. The Draft TYP will then go to the governor in December and the legislature in the Spring.

One TAC member questioned whether any existing projects in the region had advanced or moved within the Draft TYP. Mr. Williams stated that all the existing projects in the region remained programmed in the Draft TYP in the same years as the current TYP although some costs have changed. Mr. Watson added that project cost estimates mostly decreased due to a lower rate of inflation. He noted that projects in the first five years of the TYP have already begun to some degree so they typically don't move around. Projects in the last five years of the TYP are more likely to be able to move within those five years. Mr. Watson explained that any major movement for projects will likely be as a result of the GACIT, who in the past has moved projects around.

Regional Updates/Other Business

- Traffic Counting

Mr. Williams informed the TAC that staff was nearly done with traffic counts. If any town's want detailed information they should e-mail him to get a report. The town summary tables likely won't be updated and added to the website for a month.

- Mid State Regional Coordinating Council

Mr. Williams provided the Mid State Regional Coordinating Council (Mid State RCC) update noting that CNHRPC would begin an update to the Coordinated Human Services and Transportation Plan that was adopted in 2010. CNHRPC is just waiting for the contract to go to Governor and Council before initiating the update. He added that there will be many opportunities for public involvement throughout the process.

The Mid State RCC is also actively working on acquiring match money for the Volunteer Driver Program (VDP). 80% of the program is covered by a Federal Highways 5310 Purchase of Service grant. The 20% local match comes from Community Action Program, rider donations and charitable grants. In an effort to make the program more sustainable, the RCC has recommended that the VDP seek funding (match money) from communities who have large numbers of customers or destinations that are frequented. Currently the VDP provides between 400 and 500 trips per month. Dean noted that if any communities would like to see the number of customers or trips to and from their community that he has the data available to share.

- Other Business

Dean Williams gave a quick summary of the Concord to Franklin Transit Feasibility Study. He explained that the recommendations from the study did not find the service to be practical at this time. With changes in demographics, higher gas prices, increased traffic and less parking, a bus service between Franklin and Concord would be more feasible.

Mr. Williams ended by informing the TAC that CNHRPC is currently working with Concord Area Transit (CAT), the City of Concord, NHDOT and RLS Associates on updating the 2010 CAT Service Study. The study will focus on how the service can be improved.

Next Meeting Date

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for November 3, 2017 at 9:00 A.M., at the Bow Town Hall.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 A.M.