

**Central NH Regional Planning Commission**

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**Transportation Advisory Committee**

**December 1, 2017**

**Minutes**

Bow Municipal Building, Bow, 10 Grandview Road, Bow

9:00 A.M.

<b>Attendees</b>	
Barbara Annis, Town of Warner	Tim Blagden, Town of Warner
Betsy Bosiak, Town of Epsom	Bob Cole, Town of Loudon
Ted Houston, Town of Boscawen	Rob Mack, City of Concord
Richard Moore, Town of Chichester	Cam Prolman, SNHPC
Lucy St. John, NHDOT	John Stoll, City of Concord
Matt Taylor, Town of Bow	Dave White, Town of Hopkinton

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

The meeting began at 9:05 AM, called to order by Chair, Barbara Annis.

**Introductions**

All TAC members and guests present introduced themselves.

**Review and Approve Minutes of the September 8, 2017 TAC Meeting**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2017 TAC meeting as written.

*M/S/Passed Betsy Bosiak/ Rob Mack*

**NHDOT Update**

To begin, Dean Williams provided a brief summary of the Central Region GACIT hearing stating there was public support for the Henniker/Hopkinton US 202/NH 127 intersection project, the Loudon NH 106/Chichester Rd./S. Village Rd. intersection project, Concord's Whitney Rd. project, and the Merrimack River Greenway Trail. There was also comment on the Capital Corridor rail project.

Lucy St. John from NHDOT provided an update on the Draft Ten Year Plan and the GACIT hearings stating the primary comments from the twenty-two hearing she has attended were around roads, intersections, noise and

trails. Ms. St. John touched on the recent toll increase proposal and said there are drafts of the Ten Year Plan that incorporate a 50% increase in toll rates as well as a 25% increase.

After the final GACIT hearing in Portsmouth on December 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meeting on the sixth to review the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant applications. Matt Taylor of Bow asked if there are projects in the region that would qualify for CMAQ funds and Mike Tardiff of CNHRPC responded that there are, but for this round there were no applications from CNHRPC communities.

There was discussion over the proposed changes to the draft Ten Year Plan. Mr. Tardiff mentioned the Henniker/Hopkinton intersection project was moved up a year from 2026 to 2025. There has also been a proposal to flex CMAQ funds over to complete corridor studies. Relative to corridor discussion, Mr. Taylor asked how a project gets on the corridor list. Mr. Tardiff responded that US Route 4 through Epsom and NH Route 9 through Hillsborough, Hopkinton and Henniker are included in the list of potential corridors. Communities interested in other corridor studies should work with CNHRPC and NHDOT.

Richard Moore of Chichester had a question over the GACIT handout that was provided and Mr. Tardiff explained that the handout summarizes major comments from the public hearings on projects in the Ten Year Plan.

Mr. Taylor asked for clarification on the Capital Corridor. Tim Blagden explained that the proposal in the draft TYP is to study rail transit connecting Manchester and Nashua to Boston. Mr. Blagden added that there is a lot of support in the southern parts of the State, specifically in the business community. He feels that people are beginning to look beyond the operating cost and fare box revenue and are now considering the greater social and economic benefits of passenger rail.

There were some questions about CMAQ flex money in the Ten Year Plan being used for sound walls along the highway. Ms. St. John explained these walls were frequently brought up at the GACIT hearings. Dave White from Hopkinton asked why that money was chosen to go to sound walls when it could be used for the red listed bridges. Ms. St. John said that using the CMAQ flex money for the sound walls will free up money elsewhere to flow into the bridge program.

Mr. Taylor made a motion for the CNHRPC TAC to support the toll increase that NHDOT has recommended. Discussion followed regarding the need to finish projects sooner at a lower cost than if the projects are delayed for many years out.

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

### **Regional Transportation Plan Outline and Process**

Mr. Williams provided the committee with a update explaining the beginnings of the public involvement process where CNHRPC will reach out to stakeholders such as Selectman, Planning Boards, School Districts and other entities for input throughout the plan development. CNHRPC will kick everything off next week and put a notice in the Concord Monitor. The plan will be an update of the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2015 Transportation Chapter of the Regional Master Plan. Mr. Blagden mention that it would be prudent to include consideration of autonomous vehicles as the technology looms in the near future.

## **Regional Updates**

- Traffic Counting

Mr. Williams stated the counts are completed and data is available on the CNHRPC website. In the winter he will ask Towns to begin filling out count requests for the following season and assist with developing counting programs.

- Mid State Regional Coordinating Council

Mr. Williams updated the committee by stating the Volunteer Driver Program has recently begun using volunteer driver hours as a form of in-kind match to reduce the cash match needed to draw down the federal funds used to run the program. While two new drivers have registered with the RCC, they are always looking for additional drivers and encourage new users to join.

- Concord Area Transit (CAT)

CNHRPC staff has been working with the City, NHDOT and a third-party consultant, RLS, to complete an update to the CAT service study. The project is ongoing. CNHRPC has also created a new website for CAT.

## **Next Meeting Date**

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for February 2, 2017 at 9:00 A.M., with a snow date of February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Bow Town Hall.

## **Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 A.M.