

**Central NH Regional Planning Commission**

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**Transportation Advisory Committee**

**February 2, 2018**

**Minutes**

Bow Municipal Building, Bow, 10 Grandview Road, Bow

9:00 A.M.

<b>Attendees</b>	
Tim Blagden, Town of Warner	Bob Cole, Town of Loudon
Jon Evans, NHDOT	Ted Houston, Town of Boscawen
Rob Mack, City of Concord	Stan Prescott, Town of Loudon
Jim Pritchard, Town of Pittsfield	Lucy St. John, NHDOT
Derek Shooster, SNHPC	Matt Taylor, Town of Bow
Chris Trovato, Town of Henniker	Dave White, Town of Hopkinton
Harry Wright, Town of Bradford	

**Commission Staff:** Sam Durfee, Craig Tufts, Dean Williams

The meeting began at 9:12 AM, called to order by Dean Williams.

**Introductions**

All TAC members and guests present introduced themselves.

**Nominations for Vice Chair**

Mr. Williams called for nominations for a Vice Chair of the TAC. Stan Prescott of Loudon nominated Bob Cole of Loudon. Mr. Cole accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations and a vote was cast.

*M/S/Passed Unanimously Stan Prescott/Harry Wright*

**Review and Approve Minutes of the December 1, 2017 TAC Meeting**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the December 1, 2017 TAC meeting as written.

*M/S/Passed Matt Taylor/David White*

## **NHDOT Noise Policy**

Jon Evans of NHDOT gave a PowerPoint presentation on the NHDOT's Noise Policy and explained in depth the underlying concepts, the noise barrier programs, the types and associated costs of barriers, and the decision-making process behind building or not building barriers along state road ways.

Rob Mack of the City of Concord asked what the average heights of noise barriers and Mr. Evans replied that on average, they are around sixteen feet high. Mr. Evans went on to say the noise barriers are almost always employed to mitigate noise for outdoor uses only as opposed to indoor uses. Mr. Mack also asked if the problem of graffiti is taken into consideration when constructing these barriers. Mr. Evans replied that it is, in fact a stretch of noise abatement in NH was made out of recycled plastic for this purpose because the paint would not adhere well and could be easily cleaned. The company that produced those panels, unfortunately, went out of business.

Bob Cole of Loudon asked what triggers are looked for so that a noise abatement may be considered for construction. Mr. Evans stated that barriers are built based on measured impacts and benefits, not by complaints received. Derek Shooster of SNHPC asked if a private developer provided money to DOT, would DOT build barriers along a section of roadway to protect the development from highway noise. Mr. Evans said no, due to the fact it becomes a social justice issue when affluent communities can funnel funds into DOT and directly benefit from the State's resources where other communities may not be as fortunate. There may be instances where developers use planning techniques or construct their own noise abatements in order to lower noise impacts.

## **NHDOT Ten-Year Plan Update**

Mr. Williams updated the committee as to the status of the Ten-Year Plan since the December TAC meeting, stating that the draft that the TAC voted its support for had the proposed toll increase in it, but Gov. Sununu took the toll increase off the Executive Council's agenda. The new Ten-Year Plan draft has gone to the legislature. The Boscawen Complete Streets project has been moved up.

## **Regional Updates**

- Regional Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Williams explained the Planning Commission is working on hashing out existing conditions and will be working with the TAC and individual towns this summer to talk about specific projects.

- Mid State Regional Coordinating Council

Mr. Williams shared with the committee that Larissa, the RCCs mobility manager has left the position, which is now vacant, and the RCC is looking to fill it. He also shared that the Volunteer Driver Program provided around 5,000 rides in 2017.

- **Concord Area Transit (CAT)**

CNHRPC has completed data collection and mapping and has passed the information to the consultant, RLS. A meeting is going to be scheduled between RLS and the CAT drivers to discuss potential route structures based on the data collected.

- **Mink Hills Trail Use Assessment**

Mr. Durfee provided the committee with an update on the work that is being done with community members from Bradford, Warner, Henniker, and Hopkinton to assess the type of uses that are happening on trails and class V and VI roads through the Mink Hills region. He explained that volunteers have been recommended the app Ski Tracks to take pictures and record trail conditions and specific issues.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for May 4, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. at the Bow Town Hall.

**Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 A.M.

*M/S/Passed Stan Prescott/David White*