

**Central NH Regional Planning Commission**

28 Commercial Street, Suite #3

Concord, NH, 03301

Tel: (603) 226-6020

[www.cnhrpc.org](http://www.cnhrpc.org)



**Transportation Advisory Committee**

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

**APPROVED Minutes**

9:00 A.M.

<b>Attendees</b>	
Harry Wright, Town of Bradford	Richard Moore, Town of Chichester
Karen Hill, City of Concord	Betsy Bosiak, Town of Epsom, TAC Chair
David White, Town of Hopkinton	Carolyn Cronin, Town of Pembroke
Tim Blagden, Town of Warner	Bianca Acerbron-Peco, Town of Webster
Russell Tatro, Town of Webster	Adam Hlasny, SNHPC
Cindy Yanski, Mid State Mobility Manager, CAPBMCI	Terri Paige, Transportation Director, CAPBMCI
William Rose, NHDOT Bureau of Planning	

**Commission Staff:** Craig Tufts, Dean Williams, Katie Nelson, Mike Tardiff

**Introductions**

The meeting began at 9:02 AM, called to order by the Chair, Betsy Bosiak. Mike Tardiff then read a statement pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, authorizing the TAC to meet electronically. All TAC members and guests present introduced themselves.

**Review and Approve Minutes of the August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 TAC Meeting**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the August 7th, 2020 TAC meeting.

*M/S/Passed David White/Betsy Bosiak  
Abstentions – Carolyn Cronin*

**Regional Public Transportation Services Update**

Cindy Yanski introduced herself and then reviewed the Transportation Services offered by Community Action Program (CAP) Belknap Merrimack Counties, Inc. She began by pointing out they have a Travel Trainer whose job is to help the public learn how to use the various transportation services. The Travel Trainer can work with individuals or groups of people. She then reviewed the three Concord Area Transit (CAT) routes using the CAT Website. She provided additional information on the ADA Paratransit Service which offers rides to people within ¾ mile of the existing CAT routes who can't use the bus due to a disability.

CAP also offers a variety of senior and disable services across the CNHRPC region. The Concord Senior Transit program offers seniors and people with disabilities rides in in Allenstown, Boscawen, Bow, Concord, Pembroke and Salisbury. The Rural Transportation Service (RTS) offers transportation to seniors and people with disabilities in every other town within the CNHRPC region besides Canterbury, Dunbarton, Deering and Hillsborough. The RTS transportation services are run out of senior centers in Bradford and Pittsfield within the CNHRPC region, although the ride scheduling is all centralized at CAP's Dispatch. Cindy displayed the ridership numbers for the RTS system demonstrating the room for growth and how some communities are using the services more than others.

For the towns in the CNHRPC region that aren't served by the RTS systems and even for the ones that are, CAP runs a Volunteer Driver Program (VDP). The VDP service area is the entire Mid-State Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) Region and provides door-to-door transportation services to medical appointments, shopping, and other errands for people ages 60+ years old, or people with disabilities. Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles and receive mileage reimbursement at the federal mileage reimbursement rate. Cindy noted that even with the pandemic, the VDP ridership was up over 35% from Fiscal Year 2019. This was partially due to the VDP Coordinator position vacancy during parts of Fiscal Year 2019.

Cindy also reviewed other services that CAP works with including the public transit services at Concord's Stickney Ave Bus Station. She also shared a story where the Mid-State RCC worked together to help the Town of Tilton purchase a used bus from Granite State Independent Living. Tilton was originally interested in using federal funding to purchase a bus, but was instead able to purchase a used bus at a better rate and without federal regulations restricting its uses. The Tilton Senior Center currently operates the bus service mostly for seniors accessing essential services, and recreational and social opportunities.

Cindy shared the impacts on operations and ridership because of COVID-19 such as increased cleaning, eliminating fares on CAT, installing safety barriers to protect drivers and riders, providing masks and hand sanitizer to users, and requiring masks for all CAP services. CAT put together a social media video displaying their experience here: <https://www.facebook.com/113151200038364/videos/355669955633497>. Cindy also shared a new service that was developed in partnership with the Friends Program called "Shopping for Seniors" where volunteers would shop for seniors and CAP's busses would deliver the groceries. The service ran from April to July.

Cindy closed by noting that she would like to start meeting with local officials to update them on available services and generate more users of the services. CAT is also going to be rebranding the system and likely making changes to some of the routes to increase frequencies and better serve the Concord community.

### **NHDOT Ten Year Plan Project Proposals**

Dean updated the TAC on the 6 project proposals that were received as part of the 2023-2032 TYP update project solicitation. He noted that other potential projects were discussed with towns that were not on Federal Aid Eligible Roads and were recommended for the Transportation Alternatives Program. The 6 eligible projects were:

- **Allenstown** – New Project
  - Main Street Complete Streets Improvements
- **Chichester** – New Project
  - NH Route 28, Kelley Corner and Webster Mills Rd Intersection Improvements
- **Dunbarton** – Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Priority in CNHRPC FY2021-2030 TIP
  - NH Route 13/77 and Jewett Road (Pages Corner) Roundabout
- **Hillsborough** – New Project
  - NH Route 9 and NH Route 31 Intersection Improvements
- **Hopkinton** – Ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in CNHRPC FY2021-2030 TIP
  - I-89 Exit 4 and US 202 (Main Street) Roundabout
- **Salisbury** – Ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in CNHRPC FY2021-2030 TIP
  - Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Improvements

Dean reviewed the schedule for the 2023-2032 TYP update explaining that the next step will be to evaluate the proposals and submit a list of preliminary ranked projects to NHDOT by November 6<sup>th</sup> with engineering estimates. CNHRPC Staff will be reviewing the projects and gathering the necessary data to evaluate each criterion over the next few weeks. Dean recommended that a subcommittee made up of impartial TAC members review the staff's data and criterion scores for the projects before bringing everything to the TAC. Tim Blagden of Warner, Carolyn Cronin of Pembroke and a representative from Concord will make up the preliminary scoring subcommittee who will meet with CNHRPC staff prior to the November 6<sup>th</sup> TAC Meeting.

### **Any Other Business**

Katie Nelson briefed the TAC on the Commute Smart NH Fall Challenge which will last the entire month of October. She encourage TAC members to join the challenge pointing out that working from home counts as an eligible commute method. Prizes will also be given out to participants during the month-long event.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the TAC meeting at 10:35am.

*M/S/Passed Unanimously Tim Blagden/Richard Moore*