

Central NH Regional Planning Commission

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Transportation Advisory Committee

November 7, 2014

Minutes

Bow Municipal Building, Bow, 10 Grandview Road, Bow

9:00 A.M.

Attendees	
Harry Wright, Town of Bradford	Emilio Cancio-Bello, Town of Sutton
John Thayer, Town of Hopkinton	Rob Mack, City of Concord
Ted Mitchell, Town of Pittsfield	Jim Pritchard, Town of Pittsfield
Stephanie Verdile, Town of Pembroke	Barbara Annis, Town of Warner
Richard Moore, Town of Chichester	Betsy Bosiak, Town of Epsom

Commission Staff: Dean Williams, Steve Henninger, Craig Tufts, Sam Durfee

The meeting began at 9:06 A.M., called to order by Steve Henninger.

Introductions

All TAC members and guests present introduced themselves.

Review Minutes of the September 5, 2014 TAC Meeting

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the September 5, 2014 TAC meeting as written.

M/S/Passed Barbara Annis/Betsy Bosiak

Nominations for TAC Chair

As Steve Henninger is no longer employed by the City of Concord and is now working part-time at CNHRPC, it became appropriate to appoint a new chairperson. Barbra Annis (Warner) suggested Scott Osgood, the current Vice Chair; however, Dean Williams (CNHRPC) explained Scott had been offered the position but declined it because he was too busy. Steve Henninger spoke for a minute about the responsibilities of being the Chair of the TAC and explained it is not difficult due to the excellent staff support. Barbra Annis (Warner) volunteered uncontested and was approved by acclimation.

TAP Application Scoring Review

Dean Williams (CNHRPC) provided TAC members with an overview of the scoring. He explained that five towns submitted applications (Bradford, Concord, Henniker, Pembroke, and Warner). Dean Williams

explained the scoring process and the ranking by the RPC's only accounts for 6% ranking of the total application score when ranked by NHDOT

Dean Williams explained how the weightings can influence the rankings, citing Henniker and Warner as Warner had a higher total score, but Henniker was higher ranked because Henniker had scored higher in criteria that had greater weight. Richard Moore (Chichester) questioned if everyone present at the meeting had scored the applications. Most of the attendees had. Mr. Moore also stated that the Stress Rating section of the application was confusing due to wording. Other attendees concurred that the Stress criteria was confusing and may need further refinement. Mr. Moore indicated his bias with his strong concern for children having well-maintained sidewalks to walk on to school. He explained how this influenced his scoring on applications emphasizing connectivity with local schools.

Barbra Annis (Warner) disagreed with some of the high scores under the "Financial readiness" criteria, citing her own town for not having any money allocated for the project yet having plans to bring it up at the next town meeting. Other members agreed with some of the remarks. Rob Mack (Concord) made the point that the differences in scores could result from different personal interpretations of the applications and criteria. Mr. Henninger mentioned that the relative value between the applications by each reviewer is more important than the actual number.

Stephanie Verdile (Pembroke) brought to question the weight of the "Improve Safety Conditions" criteria. Stating that safety should be the main concern for these projects. Mr. Williams agreed that safety could be rated higher. Craig Tufts (CNHRPC) made the point that as safety goes up, stress levels go down which would increase multimodal transportation on roads. Mr. Moore made a comment on how by increasing pedestrian transportation with quality sidewalks, it serves as a form of multimodal transportation in that it removes cars from the road.

Following Richard's comment on quality sidewalks, Steve Henninger brought to question why should NHDOT put money into a sidewalk if the community shows an inability to take care of it. Emilio Cancio-Bello (Sutton) agreed saying that in some of the work he has done with Sutton, if the community feels they cannot maintain it, given a lack of funding, they would rather not do the project at all. A discussion followed pertaining to community participation in maintaining sidewalk and the hopes of some towns to get money for these projects simply by proposing them at town meetings.

The TAC voted to approve the rankings 1-5 as prepared by CNHRPC using the criteria weights developed by NHDOT. The TAC noted that Concord had the strongest application and has the matching funds already. The rankings were: 1-Concord, 2-Henniker, 3-Warner, 4-Bradford, and 5- Pembroke.

The TAC asked for a map showing the communities statewide who had submitted application and asked to see the highest ranked projects from the other regions. Dean said a map is available and he will work with other planning commissions to provide the TAC with copies of the highest scoring applications when they are available. The committee was of the opinion that this would assist communities in preparing better applications in the future.

Transportation Chapter Review

Mr. Williams gave a quick outline of the setup of the chapter and a brief explanation of the "A Granite State Future" project. Discussion ensued over some of the graphics and data representation. Mr. Mack spoke on traffic trends and how the data displayed in the chapter is a good snapshot of an overall trend through the region. This led into a discussion on how CNHRPC gathers the data. Mr. Williams proceeded to explain the process of traffic counting and the three year cycle and that towns should keep this cycle in mind when submitting count requests to CNHRPC.

Mr. Henninger noted that a future CNHRPC project to assist the towns in establishing regular count locations in each town to allow a comparison of how traffic may be changing over time. The TAC thought this was a project that deserved attention.

Mr. Moore brought to consideration the need for the Park and Rides to be recognized as a goal in the Transportation Chapter. Dean Williams (CNHRPC) noted his comment and Steve Henninger voiced his agreement that there should be more mention of Park and Rides in the Chapter. Dean Williams (CNHRPC) highlighted graphics added at the request of the TAC, Senate Bill 367 (Gas Tax) and the regions success in implementing a Volunteer Drivers Program.

The TAC was pleased with the plan as prepared and looked forward to sharing it with others in their communities. Mr. Williams noted that the draft plan would be published online on 11/11/14 and would be e-mailed to the TAC members.

Regional Updates/Other Business

No regional updates or other business to discuss.

Next Meeting Date

The next TAC meeting was scheduled, tentatively, for January 16, 2015 at 9:00am, in the Bow Town Hall.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 A.M.