

**Central NH Regional Planning Commission**

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**Transportation Advisory Committee**

**September 5, 2014**

**Minutes**

Bow Municipal Building, Bow, 10 Grandview Road, Bow

9:00 A.M.

<b>Attendees</b>	
Steve Henninger, City of Concord, TAC Chair	Ted Houston, Town of Boscawen
Stanley Prescott, Town of Loudon	Rob Mack, City of Concord
Ted Mitchell, Town of Pittsfield	Jim Pritchard, Town of Pittsfield
Terri Paige, CAPBMCI	Barbara Annis, Town of Warner
Richard Moore, Town of Chichester	Bob Cole, Town Loudon
Bill Watson, NHDOT	Tim White, SNHPC
Betsy Bosiak, Town of Epsom	Dean Hollins, Town of Boscawen

Commission Staff: Michael Tardiff, Dean Williams, Katie Nelson

The meeting began at 9:03 A.M., called to order by TAC Chair Steve Henninger (City of Concord).

**Introductions**

All TAC members and guests present introduced themselves.

**Review Minutes of the April 4, 2014 TAC Meeting**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2014 TAC meeting as written.

*M/S/Passed Barbara Annis/Ted Houston*

**NHDOT Update**

**Transportation Alternatives Program Update**

Bill Watson (NHDOT) provided TAC members an update of the program since the last TAC meeting on April 4. Since MAP-21 expires at the end of the month, 2.5 million dollars per year (5 million for 2 years) of TAP funds will be geared towards non-motorized transportation improvements. Projects must have a total cost in the range of \$200,000 minimum and \$800,000 maximum, where up to 80% is reimbursable. The multi-step application process for a project begins with a letter of intent, an informal mandatory workshop regarding the letter of intent, followed by an application for the funds. At this point, 75 letters of intent have been received and 2 of 3 workshops have been held that are scheduled. A committee has

been established that developed criteria with weight rankings that each application will be scored against. The top three heaviest weighed criteria currently include: project's potential for success (37%), safety (22%) and project connectivity (13%). Once scored, the committee will decide on approval. Mike mentioned that this is a good way to build a case for project as you go through the application.

Ted Mitchell (Pittsfield) questioned if towns would save money by receiving funds through bonds instead of this program. Steve Henninger answered that bonds are used with bigger projects with more resources. Bill Watson added that some towns use bonds to get the cash needed for a project since most federally funded programs are based on reimbursements.

Richard Moore (Chichester) asked if there was any overlap between DRED and the DOT. Bill Watson responded that they are separate applications and DRED and the DOT have different approaches. Dean Williams added that 6 towns (Bradford, Pembroke, Canterbury, Warner, Henniker, and Concord) have filed 7 letters of intent in the region.

### **Gas Tax and Federal Highway Trust Fund Update**

Bill Watson (NHDOT) provided an update to TAC members that the 4 cent increase to the gas tax (SB 367) went into effect on July 1. The revenue generated by the gas tax is applied to resurfacing & reconstruction of secondary roadways, bridges and I-93. Bill added that a newly formed pavement management team will look at all paving projects in the state regardless of where the funds come from. A discussion occurred within the group about educating the public with signs of where the money comes from for road improvements. Bill went on to discuss that the federal government is having similar issues that NH is having with generating revenue to keep the highway trust fund from running out.

### **Regional Updates**

#### **MPO Boundary Changes**

Mike Tardiff (CNHRPC) began the update, thanking Tim White for attending from SNHRPC. The metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) in NH are federally designated urbanized areas with population greater than 50,000 people that work in conjunction with rural Planning Commissions. The 2010 census did not conclude Concord as a MPO, but did connect Allentown, Bow, and Pembroke to Manchester's MPO. Due to this change the three towns are now a voting member of the MPO, invited to join the Southern Planning Commission's Technical Advisory Committee, and will bring cooperation on transportation issues to both regions.

#### **Draft Transportation Chapter for Regional Plan**

Dean Williams (CNHRPC) introduced the draft transportation chapter as an informational tool for towns to utilize when making decisions. CNHRPC is looking for feedback on the chapter and after a brief group discussion, it was decided that Dean will coordinate a subcommittee meeting to accept feedback and suggestions.

#### **Regional Transportation Model Development**

Dean Williams (CNHRPC) provided an update on the regional transportation model development. CNHRPC has reviewed and adjusted some traffic analysis zones and is continuing to gather data that will be used in the model.

#### **Mid-State RCC Update**

Terri Paige (BMCAP) shared that the Volunteer Driver Program (VDP) statistics for July included: 657 rides, 12 rides denied, 14,862 miles recorded driven, 856 volunteer hours, 56 drivers, and \$360.00 in individual donations.

Mike Tardiff (CNHRPC) asked if there were any gaps in drivers in certain areas. Terri explained current gaps include Barnstead, Pittsfield, and Dunbarton.

Ted Houston (Boscawen) asked if the program has lost drivers due to illness or other sickness. Terri explained that the program has had many riders turn into drivers as they use the program.

Ted Mitchell (Pittsfield) asked if the program had received any help from churches. Terri explained situations in the past where church volunteers have helped when needed, including weekends when rides are not offered.

Terri finished by summarizing how the Suncook Senior Center is currently looking for a new location. This will have an immediate impact on an estimated 200 seniors that utilize the center every month but will have no impact with Meals on Wheels.

#### **Election for TAC Chair**

Steve Henninger (Concord) described the basic duties of being TAC Chair. It was decided through discussion that Scott Osgood, TAC Vice-Chair, will be emailed by Mike Tardiff to inquire if he was interested in becoming TAC Chair. After his response voting will occur for TAC Vice-Chair and/or Chair.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for October 10, 2014 at 9:00am.

#### **Other Business**

No other business to discuss.

#### **Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 A.M.