

Central NH Regional Planning Commission

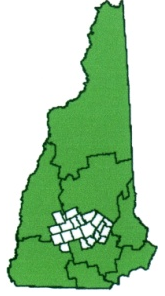
28 Commercial Street, Suite #3

Concord, NH, 03301

Tel: (603) 226-6020

Fax: (603) 226-6023

www.cnhrpc.org



Transportation Advisory Committee

April 3, 2015

Approved Minutes

Bow Municipal Building, Bow, 10 Grandview Road, Bow

9:00 A.M.

Attendees	
Christine Trovato, Town of Henniker	Barbara Annis, Town of Warner
Bill Klubben, Town of Bow	Rob Mack, City of Concord
Ted Mitchell, Town of Pittsfield	Jim Pritchard, Town of Pittsfield

Commission Staff: Mike Tardiff, Craig Tufts, Dean Williams, Sam Durfee

The meeting began at 9:12 A.M., called to order by Chair, Barbara Annis.

Introductions

All TAC members and guests present introduced themselves.

Review Minutes of the February 6th, 2014 TAC Meeting

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2015 TAC meeting as written.

M/S/Passed Ted Mitchell/Christine Trovato

As several TAC members appeared to be running late, Mr. Tardiff suggested the Committee to begin with discussing regional updates and other business before moving on to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update.

Regional Updates/Other Business

Mid State RCC Update

Dean Williams informed the TAC that the 5310 grants for the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) have been approved. Mr. Williams also included that there has been a reduction in the operating budget and changes will need to be made. These include limiting rides to priority trips such as medical visits and grocery shopping. Mr. Tardiff added that there have been situations throughout the state where a few

riders seem to take advantage for the program and use substantially more rides than others. These limitations would aim at reducing this issue. Overall though, the increase in ridership shows that this program has been a success and has value to its users.

Mr. Williams added more details on the budget, noting that finding the 20% local match can be a challenge. In the future the program may ask towns or businesses that are regular destinations for riders, to make a contribution towards the match in order to improve the service. Bill Klubben asked for a perspective on the cost of a trip in comparison to other methods of transportation. Mr. Williams replied that the set cost of a one-way trip is \$18 although trips vary significantly depending on how far away the destination is. He added that drivers are reimbursed by mileage driven. Mr. Tardiff added that the program receives roughly \$9,000 - \$10,000 in invoices monthly for reimbursements.

FY 2016-2017 UPWP

Mr. Tardiff began the update with mentioning that the overall UPWP was reduced by 10%. Toll credits were only used to match 10% of the proposed budget instead of the 20% in past years.

In regards to some of the projects under the UPWP, Mr. Tardiff shared that CNHRPC received a grant to conduct a boarding and alighting study for Concord Area Transit. There is also additional funding to complete a feasibility study to extend CAT service to Franklin. CNHRPC would be working with LRPC on this project.

Mr. Williams informed the Committee that NHDOT is emphasizing work on RSMS studies and culvert inventories. Mr. Tardiff added that these projects tie in well with hazard mitigation work and it is likely that the RPCs will focus on these types of projects in the next UPWP.

Urbanized Area MOU Update

Mr. Tardiff informed the TAC that the Urbanized Area now includes a stretch of 3A in Bow, as well as the Suncook area of Pembroke and Allenstown. Due to this change and CNHRPC's work with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), future projects within the urbanized area must be included in the region's TIP as well MPO plans. This will be addressed at the Executive Commission meeting on Thursday (4/9/2015).

Transportation Improvement Program Update

Mr. Tardiff provided an update regarding the overall TIP update process. Mr. Williams followed up by giving an explanation of the weighting and ranking system used to score TIP projects as outlined in the associated TIP document.

Rob Mack voiced a similarity between the current process and the process of two years ago. Mr. Williams noted there are some changes to the criteria. He also informed the TAC that it is by this process that NHDOT scores projects and each of the state's regional planning commissions (RPCs) intend to use the same process when evaluating potential TIP projects. Mr. Williams also explained the process that planners from the state's RPCs went through with NHDOT in order to come up with the weightings for each criteria. Mr. William added that NHDOT's preference is to keep the good roads in good condition.

Mr. Klubben and Jim Pritchard concurred that money goes further when applied to keeping existing infrastructure in good condition. Mr. Pritchard mention that this underscores the problem that there is not enough money for infrastructure improvements. Ted Mitchell agreed and said there is a need for Federal investment in infrastructure.

A discussion ensued over each criterion. Mr. Williams provided methodology for measuring each criterion and provided examples of TIP projects that score highly for each criterion. He provided the example of the Main St. and NH 28 intersection in Chichester where safety is a major focus of this project. Through this example, he illustrated the primary focus of each project and the variety of positive impacts each project would have. The Merrimack River Greenway Trail project provides an improvement for alternative modes of transportation and scores the highest in this criterion. Mr. Mack commented on how a project like this has a potential indirect impact on congestion on nearby roads.

Mr. Williams began to walk the Committee through the scoring process and explained the change to primarily using quantitative data when scoring projects (AADT, accident data, etc.). The TAC discussed the following four criteria in detail for each project; Reduce Congestion, Alternative Modes, Safety Performance and Local Support. Projects were scored in these categories by the committee and ranks were assigned for each project.

Approval Process

Once all scores were discussed and ranks agreed upon, Ms. Annis asked for a motion to approve the final rankings for TYP eligible projects as follows:

1. NH Rt 28 & Main Street Intersection Improvements - Chichester
2. NH Rt 106 & S. Village Street Intersection Improvements - Loudon
3. US Rt 202 and NH Rt 127 Intersection Improvements - Henniker/Hopkinton
4. US Rt 4 & King Rd Intersection Improvements - Chichester
5. US Rt 4 & Whitney Rd Intersection Improvements - Concord
6. Merrimack River Greenway Trail - Concord

M/S/Passed Jim Pritchard/Christine Trovato

Next Meeting Date

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for June 5th, 2015 at 9:00 A.M., in the Bow Town Hall.

Meeting Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M.