

## **News Release**

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**Transportation Community Advisory Committee Issues Final Report**

*First-in-the-nation citizen's transportation plan urges state to adopt a new approach to transportation planning*

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC), appointed by New Hampshire Department of Transportation Commissioner Carol Murray, issued its final report today, the "New Hampshire Long Range Transportation Plan." The 24-member committee is made up of state and local officials, business leaders, housing advocates, environmental groups, and community organizations.

"Transportation is too important to leave to transportation planners," said Lewis Feldstein, Chairman of the CAC and President of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. "In appointing this group of citizens to help plan its future needs, Commissioner Murray has underscored that the New Hampshire Department of Transportation can't meet the state's needs by itself."

The committee's long-range plan marks a shift in New Hampshire transportation planning policy. Its recommendations include:

- Tightly linking land use and transportation planning,
- Strengthening New Hampshire partnerships across agencies, across jurisdictions, and with private and non-profit organizations, and
- Focusing on people and communities rather than roads and cars -- recognizing that a growing number of New Hampshire residents do not drive due to cost, age, or disability.

"New Hampshire needs a transportation system that is mobile, accessible, and safe and gets people to jobs, education, and health-care efficiently," said Chris McMahon, CAC member and COO of Easter Seals.

The plan outlines five specific projects for immediate action:

- The Conway village project;
- Extend passenger rail to Nashua;
- Implement a statewide planning and service delivery program for non-
- Reduce downtown congestion in Concord; and,
- The I-93 community technical assistance program

New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation citizen's transportation plan has drawn attention from transportation planners and activists across the country.

“New Hampshire is providing national leadership on how to build communities as well as roads and highways,” said Tom Warne, a nationally known transportation consultant and former executive director of the Utah Department of Transportation. “As transportation leaders look for new ways to get close to their customers, they are watching New Hampshire as a model to follow.”

“Business as usual will not meet New Hampshire’s future transportation needs,” said Feldstein. “As Commissioner Murray said to us at our first meeting, ‘if you don’t link land use and transportation, both will fail’.”

The committee conducted 14 meetings over an 18-month period, in addition to 19 community meetings held across the state. The report will be presented to New Hampshire Department of Transportation Commissioner Carol Murray, Governor John Lynch, the Executive Council, and the state legislature. A copy of the report, as well as the Committee’s full list of members, is available on their website at [www.nhtranplan.com](http://www.nhtranplan.com).

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