

New Hampshire's first Statewide Freight Plan approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The New Hampshire Statewide Freight Plan was prepared in response to the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) of 2015. The FAST Act requires states that wish to utilize federal funding available through the National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) to develop a Statewide Freight Plan. The plan serves to document existing conditions related to freight infrastructure, operations and the economy; identify area of concern including freight bottleneck areas; and to identify potential projects which serve to enhance freight movement to promote economic competitiveness in the world market. The plan is also intended to provide guidance to NH officials on meeting national performance measures; advancing innovative technological considerations; and to engage the public and key stakeholders in a proactive discussion of issues regarding the movement of freight. Key to understanding current and future freight needs and demands is to develop a broader understanding the complex supply chain issues of living in a competitive world market. The Plan features various maps, graphics and tables to enhance understanding of these often complex topics.

The plan was prepared with extensive input from the Statewide Freight Advisory Committee (SFAC) which included representatives the Port of NH, NH Association of General Contractors, FHWA – NH Division, Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs), Railway, Motor Transport Association, State Police, State agencies, Airport Authority, NH Municipal Association, Associated Grocers of New England and logistics specialists. The SFAC was created to assist NHDOT in understanding the transportation systems issues and opportunities related to the movement of freight as experienced by industry representatives. The plan was prepared for the NHDOT by a consulting team led by the firm of Whitman, Requardt & Associates.

The statewide freight system includes the highway network, rail system, airport system and marine system (port and harbor terminals). The purpose of the plan was to advance national and state policy goals and objectives and allow NH to access available freight program funding for infrastructure improvements.

The development of the plan included interviews with key stakeholders such as the Port of NH, an on-line freight survey, four SFAC meetings, four public meetings held at locations around the state (Concord, Claremont, Berlin and Newington), and presentations at all 9 Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and Policy Committee (PC) meetings. The NHDOT would like to thank all who participated by attending the various meetings, those who responded to the on-line survey, and others who inquired with questions throughout the process.

As with any plan, it is a living document with valuable information and serves as a foundation to understanding freight movement in an every changing global economy. Funding for the development of the Plan was from the FHWA. The FHWA approved the Plan on February 11, 2019 noting it fulfills the requirements of the FAST Act – including critical corridor candidates and a plan for investing available federal freight funds.

Questions regarding the NH Statewide Freight Plan should be directed to:

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