

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
BUREAU OF RAIL AND TRANSIT**

**MEETING REPORT**

**DATE OF MEETING:** April 26, 2017

**LOCATION OF MEETING:** NHDOT, 5 Hazen Drive, Concord NH, M&R Room 205 – 11am to 1pm

**SUBJECT:** Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee (BPTAC)

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

*Present:*

Craig Tufts, CNHRPC (Chair)  
Rebecca Harris, BWA-NH  
Tim Blagden, Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail  
Scott Bogle, RPC  
Dave Topham, Granite State Wheelmen (GSW)  
Jeff Latimer, Gus' Bike Shop  
Will Schoefmann, City of Keene  
Liz Strachen, DES – Air Resources  
Terry Johnson, HEAL

*Absent:*

Eric Feldbaum, DRED  
Kathleen Mullen, DHHS  
Scott Bourcier, Dubois & King  
Erik Paddleford, NHDOT – Rail and Transit  
Kaela Gray, NCC

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS/ OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jim Kirouac, NHDOT - Highway Design	Robert Baker (phone)
Tod Powers, MWVBC	David Sky (phone)
Nate Miller, SNHRPC	Matt Waitkins, NRPC
Mark Mackenzie, NH State Rep. GSW	Larry Keniston, NHDOT – Rail and Transit
Mari Brunner, SW Regional Planning Commission	

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

Victoria Sheehan, NHDOT Commissioner  
Patrick Herlihy, NHDOT Director, Aeronautics, Rail and Transit

**NOTES ON MEETING:**

**COMMISSIONER**

Commissioner Sheehan discussed matters of interest with the Committee, as follows:

**Transit Representative and Change to Complete Streets Advisory Committee**

Commissioner Sheehan concurred with BPTAC's desire to add a transit representative. The transit representative named to the Committee should be someone with relevant transit provider experience working directly for a transit operation and who could capably inform design criteria for the accommodation of Transit in NHDOT transportation projects.

### **Complete Streets - 2016 SB 364**

Commissioner Sheehan discussed [2016 SB 364](#) (Complete Streets Study Committee) Recommendation 2 that would authorize \$2.5 million in State funds to create a unique New Hampshire-based Complete Streets Pilot Program. Contingent on the provision of funding, the Department would apply to the pilot program criteria similar to the TAP program criteria but could use a streamlined approach for communities. The State level of investment would include prioritization of projects by assessing community readiness and a preference of new facilities over maintenance. Should Recommendation 2 become reality, BPTAC may be requested to assist the Commissioner in the development and review of more formalized criteria to help prioritize Complete Streets related project applications by municipalities. With regard to advocating for additional transportation funding toward the implementation of Complete Streets Commissioner Sheehan reminded the Committee that it is only appropriate for BPTAC to advise the Commissioner.

### **Reviewing and updating NHDOT's design documents**

Depending on current priorities and available funding, BPTAC may be asked in the future to assist the Commissioner in the development and review of additional criteria to assist the Commissioner in reviewing and updating NHDOT's design documents, which could potentially include a public health component promoting elements such as, for example, mixed unit development.

Nate Miller asked specifically about the Department's 1990 "Minimum Geometric Guidelines for Local Roads and Streets. The Commissioner noted that the Department is working on consolidating documentation and streamlining policies and procedures. Primarily toward providing more timely information for communities that rely on the Department's 1990 "Minimum Geometric Guidelines for Local Roads and Streets, the Commissioner agreed to draft a letter to all municipalities in the State advising the incorporation of guides such as the FHWA's 2017 Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks guide into the subdivision regulations of every municipality in the State.

### **Commissioner's thoughts on the benefits of MassDOT's Complete Streets policy**

Commissioner Sheehan along with several meeting participants shared common experiences from Moving Mass Together conferences. MassDOT has worked under a statewide Complete Streets policy since 2006 and a Healthy Transportation policy since 2013. For New Hampshire, however, Commissioner Sheehan does not support Complete Streets mandates that cause additional process without adding value. NHDOT will continue to reach out to communities to understand what is important to the community with a context sensitive approach

### **Pedestrian and Bicycle Design Criteria Document**

Commissioner Sheehan indicated that the NHDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Design Criteria Committee has begun to develop draft recommendations for accommodating pedestrians and bicyclists on New Hampshire's highways. The Department plans to engage a consultant to complete a document that provides design recommendations for accommodating pedestrians and bicyclists on New Hampshire's highways. The Department envisions tasking BPTAC with review of the Consultant's work and the Department will be open to comments from the Committee.

### **State Trails Plan – 2015 SB 80**

The final report of the [2015 SB 80](#) Rail Trail Study Committee found that the New Hampshire State Trails Plan (2005, Department of Transportation) needs to be updated in order to reflect more than ten years of changes. Director Herlihy indicated that an updated plan should include a trail inventory listing sources of trail funding, which could determine eligible uses in some cases. In other cases, the Plan could include outreach to communities in order to provide an understanding of what kind of uses communities envision for their trails. Whether to expand the trails inventory and vision beyond rail trails to include a broader trail plan will need to be decided. While BPTAC could be tasked with review of the plan scope, funding sources for the plan update will need to be identified before any trails plan update could begin.

Specifically with regard to the potential Department purchase of 9 additional miles of the Hampton Branch corridor, Director Herlihy noted that the Department and Pan Am Railroad are both eager to bring negotiations to a conclusion. Specifically with regard to the 6 miles of Northern Railroad in Concord abandoned by Pan Am in March, 2017, Director Herlihy noted that according to the STB documents filed by Pan Am, the corridor property will be offered to the State and some combination of State and municipal funding could potentially be made available to begin negotiating a public purchase of the corridor.

### **Financial Tracking**

The BPTAC sees value in tracking with the NHDOT's ProMIS database state and federal investments in pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure that are part of broader highway projects in order to demonstrate the work NHDOT is already doing towards Complete Streets outside of the TAP program and provide a better understanding of investments in non-motorized transportation statewide. *Is this feasible?*

### **Performance Measures**

Commissioner Sheehan recognized the value in the implementation of performance-based planning for pedestrian and bicycle transportation. The Department has 5 performance groups prioritizing the implementation of all mandatory reporting to close gaps and then the Department will evaluate additional performance measures. The Department will have an asset management plan by the end of June, which will focus resources toward attaining performance measures that the Department and MPOs adopt.

### **Training**

All Bureaus within the Department have received the announcement of BPTAC's scheduled June 7 workshop focused on improving accessibility and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists based on FHWA's newly released Small Town and Multimodal Network Guide. As a way to proactively inform key NHDOT staff on the available design options to improve roadway design to accommodate users, Commissioner Sheehan *welcomes BPTAC assistance for other similar trainings in the future.*

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Approval of March Minutes**

The Committee approved the minutes of the March meeting.

### **Conference**

The Committee voted to send a recommendation to hold a conference to advance multimodal transportation in New Hampshire to the front office for approval

### **Rules/Safety Brochure**

Larry Keniston provided an update on the status of the rules/safety brochure. In an effort to improve the overall appearance and finish of the brochure a DOT staff person has modified an earlier version to give it a similar look and feel as the [Guide To Promoting Walking and Bicycling Accommodations In New Hampshire](#). Larry passed the draft around the table and explained that there is some additional work to be done before it's ready for distribution. In answer to a question about content changes, Larry explained that the NHDOT-approved version content will contain some tweaks in order to ensure that any summary interpretations of New Hampshire law are defensible and will provide the updated document at a subsequent meeting for comparison with document versions without the NHDOT logo that have already been distributed.

**STRAVA Training Session** A STRAVA training session featuring Haynes Bunn from STRAVA Metro and Laura Getts from Plymouth State University following today's BPTAC meeting

### **FHWA's Small Town and Multimodal Networks Guide Workshop**

Phil Goff will facilitate the workshop on June 7, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM at NHDOT Room 114. BWANH, GSW and CNHBC were discussed as potentially teaming up to provide refreshments.

### **3 Foot Minimum Passing Signs**

Will Schoefmann agreed to document the process for installing MUTCD compliant 3-Foot Minimum Passing Distance signs on both municipal and state roadways at a subsequent meeting.

### **North Country Council Committee Member**

Kaela Gray has moved on to an opportunity as a planner for the State of Rhode Island effective May 1. Greg Disanto and/or Barbara Robinson from NCC will fill Kaela's vacant committee position.

### **Meeting ended at 1:10**

<b>Next Meeting:</b> May 24, 2017 11:00-1:00pm, NHDOT: Lobby Rm 112/113
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