

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

**MEETING REPORT**

**DATE OF MEETING:** September 27, 2017

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

**SUBJECT:** Complete Streets Advisory Committee (CSAC) Monthly Meeting

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

*Present:*

Craig Tufts, CNHRPC (Chair)  
Rebecca Harris, BWA-NH  
Dave Topham, Granite State Wheelmen (GSW) (phone)  
Will Schoefmann, City of Keene  
Liz Strachan, DES – Air Resources  
Erik Paddleford, NHDOT – Rail and Transit  
Barbara Robinson, North Country Council  
Tim Blagden, Concord-Lake Sunapee RT (phone)  
Scott Bogle, RPC

*Absent:*

Terry Johnson, HEAL  
Jeff Latimer, Gus' Bike Shop  
Scott Bourcier, Dubois & King  
Mike Whitten, MTA  
Eric Feldbaum, DRED  
Kathleen Mullen, DHHS

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS/ OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jim Kirouac, NHDOT - Highway Design  
Larry Keniston, NHDOT – Rail and Transit  
Simon Corson, Town of Amherst  
Mari Brunner, SWRPC  
Adam Hlasny, SNHRPC  
Nick Alexander, NHDOT – AMPS  
Patrick Herlihy, NHDOT – Aeronautics, Rail and Transit

**NOTES ON MEETING:**

Attendees introduced themselves.

**Asset Management, Performance and Strategies (AMPS)**

Nick Alexander, Administrator of the AMPS office at NHDOT provided an overview of the AMPS tasks and overall work program. Nick reviewed the asset management workgroup management structure that contains 5 workgroups; inventory, performance, policy and records, data and systems, and work order and these groups fit together. Briefly, the inventory group is responsible for identifying Department assets, determining their importance, and determining what attributes are important to know for each; the work order group identifies transportation system needs and how those need will be accomplished; the

performance workgroup is responsible for identifying transportation system goals and targets; the policy and records group is responsible for reviewing and bringing a systematic approach to Department policies and procedures; the data and systems work group looks to improve efficiencies between systems and making sure the right data is being stored and is accessible by the personnel that need it.

Nick went over the asset priority rankings that have bridges, pavements, and culverts at 1, 2 and 3 respectively. The focus of the asset management effort has centered on pavements and bridges to this point because there are certain federal requirements that need to be met for those assets related to the FAST Act.

One item related to pavements is the effort currently going on to research what a new data collection vehicle should be capable of collecting. The current data collection van is 10 years old and was primarily purchased to collect data on pavement condition. A new vehicle could be used to collect additional data on Department assets. Nick asked the committee to think about what information a vehicle could collect that would be useful for bicycle or pedestrian uses. What business needs are needed for bicycle and pedestrian uses? Committee members thought information used to calculate level of traffic stress (LTS) would be important to collect in addition to some others. The LTS information would allow for a statewide analysis of the bicycle network. Erik indicated he had previously sent an e-mail responding to an inquiry about collection van needs and he would send that e-mail out as a starting point for the committee to think about collection needs for the future. The CSAC should produce a letter listing collection vehicle needs with reasons what the data is important to Erik and he will submit the letter to the AMPS office for consideration.

Nick indicated that further down the priority list at number 5 are signals. Since signals are related to bicycles and pedestrians, this is something the committee can think about for the future. Rebecca Harris mentioned [HB 154](#) – An act relative to interference with traffic devices signed by Governor Sununu that exempts public transit bus operators from the prohibition on using a device to change, disrupt, or interfere with the operation of a traffic signal. This may allow for “smart transit bus signals” that could give preference to transit at a signalized intersection.

### **Approval of July Minutes**

The committee approved the minutes of the July meeting.

### **Rail Corridor Discussion**

Patrick Herlihy discussed the negotiation history of the Hampton Branch between the Department and Pan Am and indicated negotiations with Pan Am for the corridor have been terminated. The best and final offer from the Department for the corridor was \$3.2 million as this represents the value if sold piecemeal. Pan Am does not need to sell the corridor intact and could choose to sell individual parcels. The Department would still have first right of refusal for each parcel they choose to sell. The highest and best use for the corridor was determined to be a transportation corridor/ rail trail.

Patrick also indicated that Pan Am has not expressed an interest in selling the recently abandoned branch that runs from Concord to Boscawen.

[A recent walking review of this corridor took place on June 30, 2017.](#) The review was hosted by Central NH Regional Planning Commission in order to have stakeholders review the current conditions of the abandoned Concord to Boscawen corridor and get a vision for what a future rail trail could look like.

Committee members asked about the possible use of CMAQ funds for the rail corridor purchase. Patrick mentioned that while there is \$5 million in CMAQ funds that could be deobligated after the GACIT process, it is very unlikely it will be used for this purpose.

## **NHDOT update**

### *Smart Growth America – Accelerating Practical Solutions*

Larry provided an overview of the Smart Growth America – Accelerating Practical Solutions grant that the Department was awarded. The program is offering DOTs a workshop that looks at “practical solutions” that can accelerate project delivery and build based on the needs of the community and not necessarily building to specific design standards that can increase cost and leave out non-motorized users of the transportation system. Given that there is not enough money to cover all needed projects, a practical solution can provide the greatest value for the investment. [Please see this video discussing the grant opportunity.](#) Larry will post this video on the [NHDOT bicycle and pedestrian program web pages](#) under miscellaneous and invite others to participate in the next conference call for this project.

### *Possible Research Opportunities*

Erik mentioned two research opportunities that the Department is looking at related to non-motorized travel. One is called “Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements Realized in Communities of 10K or less” and the other is called “[Fostering Innovation in Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Pooled Fund Study](#)”. The Department has committed to funding the Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements Realized in Communities of 10K or less project but will need to wait and see if funding will be available for the pooled fund study at a later time. Erik will send out information on both of these opportunities to committee members as requested by Rebecca Harris.

### *State Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Update*

Erik told the committee that 3 consultants had been “short listed” and has provided proposals for services. The short listed firms include: Alta Planning + Design, Toole Design Group, and Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. The NHDOT consultant selection committee will rate the firms based on their proposals and make a selection. Erik will provide further update at the next meeting.

## **Other items**

Rebecca informed the committee that Matt Waitkins has spoken to someone at UNH and they appear interested in having a complete streets presentation in their Road Scholar program. Rebecca also indicated that the Tri State Transit conference taking place in September 2018 is interested to hear what could be presented relating to complete streets.

Craig and Rebecca want to meet and come up with a longer term plan for CSAC projects and priorities.

Liz Strachan informed the committee that the auditorium at DES is available for fall 2018 for the conference. The committee needs to provide her a date so she can reserve the rooms before they are reserved by others.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20pm

<b>Next Meeting:</b> October 25, 2017 11:00-1:00pm, NHDOT: Materials and Research, Room 205
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Remaining meetings for 2017:

November 29

December 20