The NHDOT CSAC discussed certain aspects of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) at the June 27th meeting. The discussion followed a presentation on the TAP by Tom Jameson, the TAP manager. The following attached letter/memo discusses the concerns brought forward by the CSAC during that discussion.

The CSAC would like to bring this issue to your attention to consider taking action to convene the Transportation Alternatives Program Advisory Committee (TAPAC) in time to develop actionable recommendations for this TAP round. We welcome you to join the next scheduled CSAC meeting on August 22 at 1pm in the Materials and Research building room 205 to discuss the concerns brought up by the CSAC regarding the TAP program. Please let me know if you are able to attend.

Att.
cc: P. Stamnas (Director, Project Development)
W. Watson (Administrator, Planning & Community Asst.)
C. Tufts (Chair, CSAC)
Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of Transportation
7 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

July 11, 2018

At the July meeting of the Complete Streets Advisory Committee (CSAC), Tom Jameson was in attendance to present on the upcoming round 3 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). While excited about the upcoming grant round, CSAC was concerned to hear that the Transportation Alternatives Program Advisory Committee (TAPAC) had not convened since round 2 of TAP two years ago. CSAC would have anticipated that an evaluation or debrief of the prior round would have occurred in advance of round 3. The TAP and CMAQ Advisory Committees have traditionally been an important aspect of the openness and transparency of the project selection process for those programs in New Hampshire. CSAC believes that given the highly competitive nature of the grant and its importance to the state’s bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure that a reconvening of TAPAC is warranted. The full committee voted to convey this recommendation to the Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance.

The lack of an active TAPAC is particularly relevant in light of concerns that some on the CSAC had regarding the scoring of regional rankings. Without an active TAPAC, there is no clear avenue to openly evaluate these concerns and make potential improvements to the scoring process.

As of July 9th we understand the Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance has reached out to remaining TAPAC members to gauge interest in continuing on the committee. We are encouraged by this progress and hope it will be accompanied by filling vacant positions with analogous expertise as needed, so that the committee can play an active role in project evaluation and ranking and subsequent process evaluation.

Sincerely Yours,

Craig Tufts, Chair
NHDOT Complete Streets Advisory Committee