

*Southwest Region Planning Commission*  
37 Ashuelot Street, Keene, NH 03431 603-357-0557 Voice 603-357-7440 Fax

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**Transportation  
Advisory Committee**

Kendall Lane, Chair  
*Keene*

Frank Sterling, Vice Chair  
*Jaffrey*

Susan Ashworth  
*HCS Community Care*

Brian Barden  
*Dublin*

Leslie Casey  
*Sullivan*

William Faulkner  
*Pathways for Keene*

John Gomarlo  
*Winchester*

Rhett Lamb  
*Keene*

Gus Lerandean  
*Swanzey*

Leandra MacDonald  
*Peterborough*

Cheryl Mayberry  
*Walpole*

Ed Smith  
*Hinsdale*

*with*

John Kallfelz  
*NH DOT District 4*

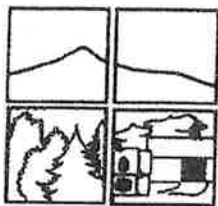
**Transportation Advisory Committee**

**September 9, 2019  
2:00 p.m.**

**Southwest Region Planning Commission  
37 Ashuelot Street  
Keene, NH**

**Agenda**

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Minutes of April 1, 2019
- III. Draft 2021-2030 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan
- IV. Statewide Strategic Transit Assessment Update
- V. Other Transportation Program Updates
- VI. Next Meeting
- VII. Adjourn



**Southwest Region Planning Commission**

**Transportation Advisory Committee**

**Minutes**

**April 1, 2019**

**Present:** Kendall Lane, *Chairman, City of Keene*; Susan Ashworth, *Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services*; Brian Barden, *Town of Dublin*; Leslie Casey, *Town of Sullivan*; William "Wink" Faulkner, *Pathways for Keene*; John Kallfelz, *NH DOT District 4*; Rhett Lamb, *City of Keene*; Gus Lerandeau, *Town of Swanzey*; Leandra MacDonald, *Town of Peterborough*; Cheryl Mayberry, *Town of Walpole*; Ed Smith, *Town of Hinsdale*.

Staff members present: Tim Murphy, *Executive Director*; J. B. Mack, *Principal Planner*; Becky Baldwin, *Office Manager*; Todd Horner, *Planner*.

Guests: Lucy St. John and Bill Oldenburg, *NHDOT*; Kurt Blomquist and Donald Lussier, *City of Keene*.

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Ed Smith called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m., welcomed those in attendance, and introductions were made.

**II. Minutes of March 18, 2019**

**Motion: To approve the minutes of March 18, 2019 as presented.**

Motion by Rhett Lamb, seconded by Gus Lerandeau. Approved by unanimous vote.

Chairman Lane arrived and proceeded to chair the meeting.

**III. 2021-2030 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan Regional Priorities**

J. B. Mack explained that the goal for today's meeting is to make final recommendations regarding regional priorities for the 2021-2030 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) so they can be presented to the SWRPC Board of Directors at their April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Final recommendations need to be submitted to NHDOT by May 1, 2019.

J. B. Mack reviewed the four projects that were discussed at the March 18, 2019 TAC meeting including corridor improvements for NH Rt. 10 Winchester Street between the NH Rt. 101 roundabout south to the Swanzey town line, NH Rt. 101 from the Stone Arch Bridge in Keene east to the Marlborough town line, West Street from School Street west to the NH 9/10/12 interchange, and a NH Rt. 10 Manning Hill Road

tree clearing project. He noted that NHDOT has advised that the Manning Hill Road project is considered a maintenance project and is not eligible to receive TYP funding.

Kurt Blomquist observed that the NH Rt. 101 project was initially estimated to be a \$3.5-4 million project and it is now listed as a \$16 million project. He added that he can appreciate NHDOT consideration to widen the road but this will result in increased travel speeds which is a concern. He suggested that it might be a good idea to conduct a road safety audit for this area but admitted there have not been enough crashes reported to warrant one.

J. B. Mack noted that it was suggested at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting that personnel from the City of Keene come to today's meeting to provide more information regarding proposed corridor improvements to West Street. Kurt Blomquist said that 13,000 cars travel this corridor daily which is a large volume. In 1994-1995 a survey was conducted to look at options for improving the corridor. Some of the suggestions included looking at roundabouts, reducing lane widths to allow for a median and upgrading the City's 30 year-old traffic signal system. The corridor is currently posted at 30 mph and the average travel speed is 35-38 mph. The proposal being presented is to continue to have two lanes of traffic in both directions with a 4-6' median and a 5' sidewalk. Kurt Blomquist explained that updated traffic signals would allow for the control of traffic flow and would help with congestion issues. Leandra MacDonald questioned whether 13,000 was an accurate traffic volume figure for West Street and Kurt Blomquist explained that it increases the closer you get to the highway interchange. Chairman Lane asked what the cost would be to upgrade the traffic signals and John Kallfelz estimated a couple of million dollars for all the City signals.

Bill Oldenburg noted that he was on the NHDOT engineering committee that reviewed the proposed TYP projects. The engineering review was established due to the large number of projects that have been submitted in the past that have low cost estimates. He added that this is how the 10-year plan used to end up with 30 years of projects. With regards to the West Street project, he explained that it was hard to figure out from the application exactly what the plan was so they had to make an estimate based on historical data and the City's complete streets guidelines.

TAC members went on to discuss the Winchester Street corridor improvements project. Chairman Lane noted that the Kit Street intersection coming out of Filtrine Manufacturing poses a major problem to vehicles trying to make a left (northbound) turn during various times of the day. Leandra MacDonald questioned the number of access points on the road and Rhett Lamb explained that the City's Planning Board is trying to control that when they review new projects. Kurt Blomquist noted that the City has looked at creating service roads to help with the problem. Ed Smith noted that applying all of the funding available to the Winchester Street project might not be sufficient to complete it. Tim Murphy suggested that if we were to allocate funds to this project, we would need to seek clarification about the final scope and what the fiscal impact will be locally due to match obligations.

Chairman Lane asked how TAC members wanted to prioritize the projects they have reviewed. It was suggested that NH Rt. 10 Winchester Street be ranked as the number one priority, NH Rt. 101 as number two and West Street as number three. Leandra MacDonald questioned if funds remain after the Winchester Street project would they be allocated to our second choice project. Lucy St. John noted that NHDOT is just asking for our priority ranking and they will take care of the allocation of funds. Tim Murphy observed that we need to know what components of a project will be covered, associated costs, and, if funds remain, how they will be allocated.

**Motion: To rank priority projects for the Southwest Region in the following order #1 – NH Rt. 10 Winchester Street, #2 - NH Rt. 101 and #3 - West Street.**

Motion by Ed Smith, seconded by Brian Barden.


**IV. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at the SWRPC office.

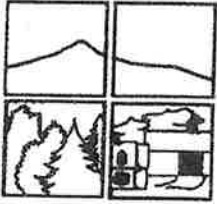
**V. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca I. Baldwin  
Office Manager



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Agenda Item III

**Date: September 9, 2019**  
**To: Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**From: Staff**

**RE: Draft 2021-2030 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan**

**Background**

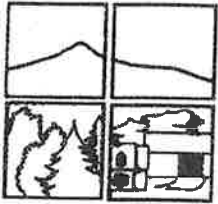
The NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) recently released the draft 2021-2030 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) as well as the schedule of upcoming public hearings of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT). At the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, staff will provide a summary update of the draft TYP and facilitate a conversation to discuss TAC attendance and talking points for upcoming GACIT hearings in Peterborough and Keene scheduled as follows:

- September 18<sup>th</sup>; 6:00 p.m.; Peterborough Town Hall, 1 Grove St.
- October 15<sup>th</sup>; 6:00 p.m.; Keene Parks and Recreation, 312 Washington St., Room 14

The draft TYP, schedule of GACIT public hearings and other documents and presentations associated with the TYP can be viewed at <http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/index.htm>.

**Recommendation**

For your information.



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Agenda Item IV

**Date: September 9, 2019**  
**To: Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**From: Staff**

**RE: Statewide Strategic Transit Assessment Update**

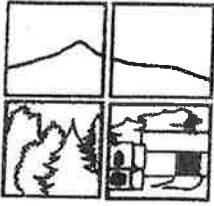
**Background**

At a meeting for NH regional transportation planners on August 13<sup>th</sup>, Steadman Hill Consulting, Inc., NH Department of Transportation's consultant for its Statewide Strategic Transit Assessment Update, gave a presentation on its findings on the state of transit in New Hampshire. The Statewide Strategic Transit Assessment is a comprehensive assessment on the state of transit, intercity bus and park and ride lot systems in New Hampshire, and part of the assessment will result in recommendations for enhancing these systems and services in the future.

In an effort to expand awareness about the findings of the study, regional planning organizations agreed to provide abbreviated versions of Steadman Hill Consulting's presentation to the regional transportation advisory committees.

**Recommendation**

For your information.



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Agenda Item V

**Date: September 9, 2019**  
**To: Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**From: Staff**

**RE: Other Transportation Program Updates**

**Background**

Several transportation-related items of interest are on-going and outlined below. These items can be discussed further during the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- a. Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program (CMAQ) 2019 Round: The NH Department of Transportation's (NHDOT) announcement opening the 2019 round for the federal CMAQ program resulted in four communities in southwest New Hampshire responding to NHDOT with letters of interest: Peterborough is interested in installing two electric vehicle charging stations; Nelson is interested in purchasing an electric pickup truck; Hinsdale is looking to redesign School Street to minimize vehicle idling and improve the number of students walking and bicycling to Hinsdale's public schools; and Keene is seeking to implement corridor improvements to West Street. In addition, the NHDOT Bureau of Traffic is applying to address multiple traffic signals around the State including signals at the intersection of NH 101 and Optical Avenue and the intersection of NH 9 with Ash Brook Avenue/Production Avenue in Keene. CMAQ applications are due on September 6<sup>th</sup>. NHDOT has indicated that it is seeking regional planning commissions to review and prioritize project proposals in their respective regions. SWRPC is awaiting further guidance from NHDOT (including a deadline to submit prioritized lists). In the meantime, SWRPC staff is proposing that TAC members conduct CMAQ evaluations as homework during September and then finalize prioritization during an upcoming meeting.
- b. Road Safety Audit 2019 Round: NHDOT is now taking applications for road safety audit technical assistance. The deadline for applications is December 1, 2019. The purpose of the technical assistance program is to reduce fatal and serious injuries. Candidate locations must have had a fatal or serious injury crash in last ten years. The program seeks locations where safety investments can be justified by the benefit/cost analysis and must be correctible with infrastructure improvements. Applicants are urged to review the crash records that are presented in support of the application. Crashes must have occurred at and be related to the subject location and should exhibit a history of crashes indicative of a safety problem rather than a single isolated crash.
- c. Jaffrey Dogleg (Project 16307): A public hearing for the Jaffrey Dogleg project is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at the VFW Post 5613 located at 12 Hathorn Road in Jaffrey. The public hearing represents a decision-making point as to whether there is a public finding to move forward with the project. The public hearing process will be adjudicated by three representatives appointed by Governor Sununu.

- d. Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge Project (Project #12210c): The Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge Project Advisory Committee (PAC) met on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The PAC instructed staff from the Towns of Hinsdale, NH and Brattleboro, VT to provide guidance on the size and number of outlooks on the bridge and the final style and type of lighting. The Towns have requested two outlooks centered over the main and side channels. NHDOT is conducting a cost analysis comparing life cycle costs for solar versus conventional street lights. The Existing Bridges Subcommittee met twice during the summer to develop a draft vision for the existing bridges and island and discuss a public engagement process to receive feedback on the draft vision.
- e. Intermodal Transportation Center (ITC) Feasibility Study: SWRPC and its consultant, Stevens and Associates, held a public open house on the ITC Feasibility Study project on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Stevens and Associates is in the process of developing final draft documents describing the purpose and need of an ITC, as well as a screening and prioritization process for assessing potential ITC locations and features.
- f. Ashuelot Rail Trail Planning Pilot Project: SWRPC staff completed a series of technical memoranda at the conclusion of the 2019 fiscal year to document findings of various studies and input opportunities. By the end of the calendar year, a project advisory committee will assist staff in finalizing a plan applicable to the trail's stakeholders, including volunteer groups, local governments, state agencies, and others.
- g. Peterborough NH 101 & US 202 Corridor Improvement Initiative: SWRPC staff held a meeting with the Peterborough Work Group to review the draft report in June 2019. The group reviewed and concurred with the findings and recommendations which included strategies such as: improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; and developing an access management plan for the corridor area.
- h. Monadnock Regional Coordinating Council for Community Transportation (MRCC): At the beginning of SFY 2020, two new transportation providers began offering service through the federal Section 5310 (Combined) RCC Program, a federally-funded program that supports transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The Keene Senior Center is reimbursing volunteer drivers to provide rides to/from the Center with the goal of reducing social isolation. The Monadnock Adult Care Center, a program of Monadnock Family Services, is expanding its Community Shopping Shuttle to serve additional housing complexes in Peterborough and Jaffrey. Alongside these new transportation providers, Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTC) and Home Healthcare and Hospice Services (HCS) will continue to offer services through the Section 5310 program.
- i. Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST): The MAST Complete Streets Subcommittee, with help from SWRPC staff, is in the midst of overseeing its third round of the Monadnock Region Complete Streets Implementation Grant. The opportunity will provide up to \$90,000 in funding to one or more communities with a Complete Streets policy to make road improvements that enhance safety for all users. Projects from the 2018 round awarded to Hinsdale, Jaffrey, and Winchester, are at various stages of progress and are expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year.
- j. CommuteSmart NH: CommuteSmart NH is a statewide initiative that aims to reduce trips taken by single-occupancy vehicles and to promote "smart" commuting options like walking, cycling, carpooling, public transit, and telecommuting. SWRPC staff participated on the committee that coordinated CommuteSmart NH's June Statewide Challenge, which encouraged workplaces to choose sustainable transportation options. Over the course of the month, Challenge participants logged 29,800 miles in commute trips taken on foot, by bike and via other green transportation modes.



- k. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Program: The NH Clean Diesel Grant Program is funded by EPA through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act. The goal of this program is to reduce the emissions from older diesel engines in the state. Projects eligible for funding include idle reduction technologies, engine replacement, vehicle and equipment replacement, exhaust controls, and aerodynamic technologies. The NH Department of Environmental Services will solicit Requests for Project Proposals beginning in October 2019 which will be announced at <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/msp/diesel-vehicles/dera.htm>.
- l. Road Surface Management Systems (RSMS): SWRPC staff completed 10-year pavement maintenance plans for the towns of Bennington, Fitzwilliam and Marlborough. The technical assistance to each town included data collection and mapping related to pavement distress and the development of two repair scenarios and budgets for consideration. SWRPC is currently working with Harrisville, Surry and Temple on RSMS projects.

In addition to the above, SWRPC staff and Committee members may suggest other transportation related updates during the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Recommendation**

For your information.