

**NCC Transportation Advisory Committee**

**@Zoom**

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**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rosalind Page (Lisbon); Doug Grant (Randolph); Raymond Gorman (Colebrook); Paul Robitaille (Gorham); Doug Damko (Littleton); Bill Sergeant (Littleton); Clayton Macdonald (Stratford, Chair); Carl Martland (Sugar Hill); Rick Hiland (Albany); Brigitte Codling (Haverhill); Joe Chenard (Lincoln); Jeff Schall (Gorham); Al Rossetto (Northumberland)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Katie Lamb (NCC); Danica Melone (NCC); Michelle Moren-Grey (NCC); Linda Dusenberry (NH DOT)

**1. INTRODUCTIONS/ATTENDANCE:**

The meeting began at 1:11 PM. Mr. Macdonald read the Governors Emergency Order #12 Executive Order 20-04 language. Ms. Lamb took a full roll call.

**2. APPROVAL OF 03/05/2020 MEETING MINUTES:**

Ms. Page noted she was omitted from the attendee list and Ms. Lamb made the correction. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. MacDonald and seconded by Mr. Robitaille. A unanimous agreement of all members present at the prior meeting was taken by roll call.

**3. REGULAR UPDATES**

**a. Ten Year Plan**

Ms. Lamb noted that NCC has a pre-proposal period for Ten-Year Plan projects right now, which is meant to develop ideas for potential projects including:

- project identification
- input on project aspects and viability
- forming the project's purpose and need statements
- outlining the documents and data needed for the application

Ms. Lamb asked members to have a think about projects they'd like to get done in their communities, or bring this opportunity to their town officials, and then get in touch with her to move forward.

**b. NH Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.**

Ms. Lamb stated there were no further updates on the plan since the last meeting.

**c. Other NCC updates.**

Ms. Lamb talked about the new Complete Streets guidance document created by NCC and mentioned the assistance NCC can provide in helping communities develop their own Complete Streets policies.

*\*\*Mr. Grant joined meeting at 1:50PM\*\**

**d. Scenic Byways.**

Ms. Melone gave an update about the byways website, stating that it is now live but that it is currently in a soft launch due to COVID-19. She said the website will be promoted to the local chamber of commerces and organizations once the pandemic is over.

Mr. Martland presented a summary of the NCSBC annual report to the group. Mr. Rossetto chimed in about NHDOT recently clearing some trees by the Weeks ski lift lot and how there is talk about moving the marker from the current formal lot across from the Weak park entrance to the ski lift lot.

**e. Updates from Communities.**

- Mr. MacDonald expressed concern about the high speeds coming into the town center of Stratford and wanting to see what could be done about it.
- Mr. Robitaille noted the movement of the ATV parking lot and working on a plan to redevelop and rebuild trailheads, as well as consolidation some trailheads. He also mentioned Gorham's application for rebuilding Main Street's sidewalks and the repavement of Main Street this year as part of NHDOT Pavement Program. Lastly, Mr. Robitaille noted the town's desire to get charging stations installed in the town.
- Mr. Rossetto said Northumberland had received a grant to reconstruct a covered bridge and that the project has since been completed and was very successful.
- Ms. Codling mentioned Haverhill's coordination with NCC for waste water and broadband efforts, and invited other communities to join in the coordination for improving broadband within the area. She also covered the safety improvements at Forest/Central Street intersection which are ready to go but are just on hold due to COVID-19. Ms. Codling said a second public survey was taken for the intersection improvement and the results were even more positive than the survey taken last year.
- Mr. Gorman talked about the Colebrook Main Street update and coordination with utilities company, but it being stalled due to COVID-19.

- Mr. Danko covered Littleton's upcoming EV installation in the Riverfront District, a charger which was donated by Littleton Chevrolet. He also mentioned that Littleton would like to look into putting in an application for the Meadow Street section of 302 for a Complete Street.

#### **4. COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT AND HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Ms. Lamb provided an update passed on from Alex Belenz:

Transportation service providers are still mostly providing volunteer driver services for residents in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many organizations lost a lot of their volunteers in the beginning of the pandemic, but gained new volunteers in the weeks following. Volunteer drivers are wearing masks and using other safety protocols while giving rides. Volunteer drivers are also delivering groceries and Meals on Wheels.

The only transportation services that we are aware of that have shut down are Concord Coach and the Grafton County Senior Citizens Center buses. Tri-County Transit is continuing to run all of their bus services and are not collecting fares. Other volunteer driver services are continuing to operate.

The CARES Act (first federal stimulus bill) included an increase in funds for some rural transit provider programs so that agencies can recoup costs related to COVID-19 (e.g., disinfection, other safety measures). Tri-County Transit uses this funding and will be eligible to recoup some of their expenses. We may see additional rural transit/transportation funding in a future stimulus bill.

- Ms. Codling asked about the CARES funding and the extend of what it covers.
- Ms. Lamb responded saying she believes it is just additional costs accrued from the pandemic, meaning masks, disinfectants, etc. but that she would check with Alex Belenz to make sure.

#### **5. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Ms. Lamb noted that the plan is still being drafted and that once the draft is done, NCC will have to assess the situation in regard to holding public consultation on the plan. She also noted that public outreach via surveys are tentatively going out by the end of this month and asked for the members input on releasing these surveys.

Members agree with a survey release in the coming weeks. Points raised by members in regard to the survey were:

- Question(s) that distinguish between travel behavior before pandemic versus during pandemic.
- Question about whether the respondent thinks they will change back their travel behavior after the pandemic or keep the same (eg. Food deliveries versus going to the grocery store; Grouping together trips rather than go out for one reason at a time; Less commuting due to work from home, etc.).

- Question about potential changes in travel behavior as a result of an economic depression (Will owning and driving a car become too expensive for some, which will shift them towards public transport or other modes).

Mr. Martland suggested there be a strategy for trailheads included in the RTP so that visitation can be more organized and efficient (eg. Possibility to consolidate some trailheads?)

#### **ADJURNMENT**

Mr. MacDonald makes a motion to close meeting, Mr. Grant seconds motion; the committee agrees unanimously to close meeting by a full roll call. Meeting is adjourned at 2:22PM.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Lamb.

DRAFT