

A GRANITE STATE FUTURE

Housing and Transportation Choices Technical Advisory Subcommittee

June 6, 2013- 10:30 AM
Home Builders and Remodelers Association of New Hampshire
119 Airport Road
Concord, NH 03301

PARTICIPANTS:

Felice Janelle- NHDES
Tom Irwin- Conservation Law Foundation
Kendall Buck- Home Builders and Remodelers Association of NH
Tom Moses- Home Builders and Remodelers Association of NH
Arlene Kershaw- Easter Seals NH
J.B. Mack- SWRPC
Jen Czysz- Nashua RPC
Nate Miller- UVLSRPC
Mike Izard- Lakes RPC

MEETING NOTES:

1. Review of Regional Plan Framework and Appendices

J.B. Mack and Jen Czysz provided an overview of the Regional Plan Framework document, which compiles all of the statewide plans and resources identified by each TASC. The Regional Plan Framework provides an outline of what could be included in the regional plans, but allows for customization based on the unique needs of each region.

Arlene Kershaw asked who the audience is for this document. Jen Czysz advised that RPC staff, municipal staff, and the general public were the audience.

TASC members reviewed the Regional Plan Framework document and recommended the following changes:

- Striking the “Livability Principles” column associated with the priority resources (starting on Page 10) because it creates confusion;
- Revising the graphic on Page 8 (Interrelationship of Regional Plan Components and the NH Livability Principles) to reflect a stronger interrelationship between:
 - Housing and Climate Change/Energy Efficiency
 - Climate Change Impacts and Compact Development Patterns
 - Climate Change Impacts and Transportation Choices
 - Economic Development and Climate Change/Energy Efficiency
 - Energy Efficiency/Green Building and Compact Development Patterns

- Energy Efficiency/Green Building and Housing Choices
- Energy Efficiency/Green Building and Transportation Choices

2. Review of Existing Conditions and Trends Assessment

J.B. Mack and Jen Czysz provided an overview of the Statewide Existing Conditions and Trends Assessment document, noting that it provides “a snapshot of New Hampshire today” based on the existing research of State Agencies and non-profit organizations.

Arlene Kershaw noted that data is changing quickly, and that the most important statewide trends need to be identified for statewide consensus building. J.B. Mack advised that identifying those key trends was a goal of today’s meeting.

Following discussion, TASC members provided the following comments and identified key trends for the *Housing Choices* section of the Existing Conditions Summary:

- Housing prices are rising again in New Hampshire. Historically, housing prices have been very high in New Hampshire. The housing stock in the state is not diverse and rental housing is needed.
- As the state’s population ages, people want a home they can stay in throughout the aging process. The recent Braemar Woods development in Windham was cited as a good example.
- Key Trend #1: The housing stock in New Hampshire lacks affordable choices, and generally, is not proximate to key employment centers in the state.
- Key Trend #2: New Hampshire’s housing stock is not diverse and housing preferences will change. Universality is important, as is the need for a better balance between single-family housing and rental housing.

Following discussion, TASC members provided the following comments and identified key trends for the *Transportation Choices* section of the Existing Conditions Summary:

- The term “alternative modes of transportation” should be reworded to “transportation options” throughout the document.
- The importance of volunteer driver programs should be mentioned in the document.
- Key Trend #1: New Hampshire’s residents are highly dependent on personal vehicles with a large majority of individuals driving their own vehicles to work every day.
- Key Trend #2: New Hampshire lacks infrastructure for other modes of transportation, and the infrastructure the state has (e.g. roads and bridges) is falling more and more into disrepair.
- The connection between housing and transportation costs should be quantified through an index, with the results forming the basis of a third key trend.

3. Options and Opportunities for TASC Next Steps

Jen Czysz discussed possible next steps for the Housing and Transportation TASC, including acting as a “sounding board” for housing and transportation related initiatives, continuing work on the Existing Conditions and Trends Assessment document, and reviewing the detailed chapter outlines for Housing Choices and Transportation Choices.

TASC members expressed interest in reviewing the detailed chapter outlines for both Housing Choices and Transportation Choices. J.B. Mack advised that he would send a message to the full committee requesting volunteers for this effort.

4. Next Meeting Date

The next Housing and Transportation TASC Meeting date will be determined via electronic poll of TASC members.

5. Public Comments

The meeting was opened for public comments. None were received.

6. Adjourn

Arlene Kershaw moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 PM. Kendall Buck seconded and the motion passed unanimously.