



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION
OF REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSIONS

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North Country Council
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Southern NH
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March 25, 2016

The Honorable Gene Chandler, Chairman
Public Works and Highways Committee
NH Legislative Office Building, Room 201
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 364

Dear Chairman Chandler and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to share the perspective of the NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions (NHARPC) relative to Senate Bill 364. The bill as proposed would establish a committee to study the feasibility of having New Hampshire include a complete streets principle as part of the 10-year transportation improvement plan. We share the following observations regarding this proposal:

- Complete streets is fast becoming an important consideration in municipal planning. The concept suggests that when considering improvements to many of our roads, particularly local roads, accommodations should be made for all users including drivers of cars and trucks, bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Several New Hampshire municipalities have recently adopted complete streets policies and others are actively discussing the concept.
- Due to this trend, a state-level complete streets policy would be advisable and desirable. This is particularly important when facilities which serve as a conduit for local traffic in a community serves a dual function as a state road or facility. A state-level complete streets policy would provide guidance and assist in ensuring coordination and compatibility with municipal complete streets efforts.
- The bill makes reference to incorporating complete streets as part of the state's 10-year transportation improvement plan. We are unclear as to the intent with this portion of the bill and feel that a complete streets policy would not lend itself for inclusion in the 10-year plan.

In summary, NHARPC feels that establishing a committee to study the merits of a state-level complete streets policy is appropriate, but we are less clear on how such a policy would be directly incorporated in the 10-year plan. Accordingly, we encourage the Public Works and Highways Committee to consider an amendment to the bill which would focus the effort to study the development of a complete streets policy for the State of New Hampshire irrespective of the 10-year plan.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment. Please contact me if you have questions about our position.

Sincerely,

Glenn Coppelman
Chairman