

Overview of the Community Technical Assistant Program (CTAP)

The Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) is a New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) **5 year** initiative to assist **26 communities** that will be affected by rebuilding and expansion of Interstate 93. These 26 communities include Allenstown, Atkinson, Auburn, Bedford, Bow, Candia, Chester, Concord, Danville, Deerfield, Derry, Dunbarton, Fremont, Goffstown, Hampstead, Hooksett, Hudson, Litchfield, Londonderry, Manchester, Pelham, Raymond, Salem, and Sandown.

The purpose of CTAP is to promote beneficial growth patterns which can minimize the negative effects of growth on community services, open space, school systems, traffic, environmental quality, and existing residential and commercial development among the 26 communities within the Interstate 93 corridor. To learn more about the CTAP program please visit: www.nhctap.com

CTAP is coordinated by federal, state, and regional agencies as well as non-governmental organizations as directed by a steering committee made up of representatives from each of these groups. Many CTAP programs are also managed by the Central, Nashua, Rockingham, and Southern New Hampshire Planning Commissions.

CTAP consists of three main stages:

- 1. Community Assessment**
 - Designed to help communities determine where they are on the planning curve and where their current planning and zoning will take them in the future.
- 2. Visioning and Planning**
 - The process in which a community pictures the future it wants and plans how to achieve it.
- 3. Implementation**
 - Utilizing the community assessment and the plans that have been developed actions are implemented that move the community forward to its ultimate vision.

Currently, the CTAP is moving into the Visioning and Planning stage via the CTAP Road Map Planning Process. The Road Map Plan is a process designed to engage communities in discussing and evaluating how they can achieve their planning goals using the planning products and services available to them through the CTAP program, RPCs, State Agencies, and other parties. Using the planning documents developed in Year 1 as a foundation, the process will help the community to evaluate the recommendations contained in the Assessments, identify priority actions, and develop a roadmap for using CTAP program and other available resources to achieve those actions within the community.

The Road Map Planning process consists of three simple steps:

1. Initial Community Engagement Meeting

Held in each community to: (1) reintroduce CTAP to community officials and (2) to evaluate the CTAP products that were developed for each community to date; and (3) develop a prioritized action plan.

2. Road Map Planning Process

Communities select either the “Plan A” or “Plan B” planning process.

- Plan A: Consists of a pre-meeting review and screening of the Community Assessment; facilitating a public workshop to evaluate recommendations; and developing an action plan.
- Plan B: Consists of an internal review process by the RPC and CTAP representatives to complete a Road Map Plan for the community, and a concluding meeting to present the road map to the public.

3. Concluding presentation

To review the Road Map plan at an all boards meeting and how it can be implemented.

CTAP plans/products developed to date for each community within the SNHPC region:

Auburn: Digitized Land Use, Land Use Interpretation, Community Planning Assessment, Conservation Commission Institute

Bedford: Digitized Land Use, Land Use Interpretation, Community Planning Assessment, Conservation Commission Institute

Candia: Digitized Land Use, Land Use Interpretation, Community Planning Assessment, Conservation Commission Institute, Local Open Space Planning

Chester: Digitized Land Use, Land Use Interpretation, Community Planning Assessment, Conservation Commission Institute, Local Open Space Planning, Build-Out Studies

Deerfield: Digitized Land Use, Land Use Interpretation, Community Planning Assessment, Conservation Commission Institute, Local Open Space Planning, Build-Out Studies

Derry: Digitized Land Use, Land Use Interpretation, Community Planning Assessment, Conservation Commission Institute, Local Open Space Planning

Goffstown: Digitized Land Use, Land Use Interpretation, Community Planning Assessment, Conservation Commission Institute, Local Open Space Planning, Build-Out Studies

Hooksett: Digitized Land Use, Land Use Interpretation, Community Planning Assessment, Conservation Commission Institute, Local Open Space Planning, Build-Out Studies

Londonderry: Digitized Land Use, Land Use Interpretation, Community Planning Assessment, Conservation Commission Institute, Local Open Space Planning

Manchester: Digitized Land Use, Land Use Interpretation, Community Planning Assessment, Conservation Commission Institute, Local Open Space Planning

Raymond: Digitized Land Use, Land Use Interpretation, Community Planning Assessment, Conservation Commission Institute, Local Open Space Planning, Build-Out Studies

CTAP Programs/Grants Available to Communities

Local Open Space & Conservation Planning: This program will assist towns in developing or updating local open space plans using a consistent approach and making use of new data and analysis.

Enhanced GIS-Based Information: This program is meant to improve or enhance the base level of GIS capabilities for all communities which can be used for a variety of local and regional planning efforts to include local master plans, transportation studies and open space plans.

GIS Build-out Analysis and Alternatives: This program will provide each community with a build-out analysis and examination of alternative build-out scenarios under different zoning and regulation schemes using a common methodology.

Local Government Cluster Workshops: This program is providing tailored training to local government in areas that include but are not limited to, capital improvement plans, innovative land-use approaches, preparing open space plans, and implementing transit oriented development.

Conservation Commission Institute: This program is dedicated to providing on-going education and training support to conservation commissions in the 26-community corridor on the subjects of land conservation and supporting the working landscape. It may roll over from year to year, and is expected to serve as the foundation for Regional Conservation Roundtables.

Innovative Local Government Training: This program will provide an annual CTAP conference and a focused training program for local government officials. The focused training program targets specific outcomes and action steps related to the CTAP goal areas. This training will use new and innovative methods to reach a broader audience and increase the effectiveness of the training (e.g., improve learning and retention rates, increase ability of attendees to implement new information and skills learned). Approaches such as innovative delivery methods, discussion boards, post training support, customized one-on-one training, and peer-to-peer training will be considered.

Regional Grant Writing Assistance: Up to 50 hours of professional grant writing services will be made available to each community under this program. A data base of grants available to the communities will also be developed, as communities may use this service to prepare proposals for any grant relating to a CTAP program goal area.

Local Government Discretionary Accounts: With funds available in January 2007, this program will provide support to towns not covered by other Year-One Programs. The funds guided and managed by the Regional Planning Commissions (RPC), will be made available to assist towns with programs consistent with CTAP directives and goals.

Targeted Local Government Accounts: This program will provide each community with \$10,000 of semi-discretionary funding to fund projects in keeping with CTAP goals and objectives. These additional funds will be available for a limited set of activities, which is expected to include the following: (1) implementation of an innovative land use technique (based on the new *Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques Guide: A Handbook for Sustainable Development* currently under development by the Regional Planning Commissions with the Department of Environmental Services and others), (2) implementation of a recommendation from the Community Assessment or (3) other priorities related to the CTAP goal areas as approved by the Steering Committee. These funds do not affect the funds distributed in Year One Local Discretionary Account Program, although they may be used together with these funds and the Local CTAP Collaborative Grants (if all program requirements are met).

Local CTAP Collaborative Grants: This program aims to focus CTAP funding on intercommunity collaboration. To achieve this goal, this program makes available an additional \$10,000 per community to be used for projects conducted collaboratively with at least one other town. Collaborative projects may address any topic related to the CTAP goal areas although communities are encouraged to consider those topics identified through the CTAP strategic planning process. There is no cap to the total number of towns that may collaborate on a proposal and each town in the collaboration is eligible for up to \$10,000 of funding to put towards the collaborative project. These funds do not affect the funds distributed in the Phase-One Local Discretionary Account Program, although they may be used together with these funds and the Targeted Local Government Accounts.

Connecting Transportation Planning and Land Use: Initiated and managed by the RPCs, this program will develop an approach to better integrate transportation and land-use planning at the local and regional scale.

Economic Strategic Planning Inventories: The goal of this program is to provide baseline data sufficient to formulate a strategic plan for a sustainable regional economy, and develop strategic regional marketing.

Community Planning Assessments: The goal of this program is to help communities determine where they are on the planning curve so they will be better able to decide how they can make the optimal use of CTAP.

Assistance in Support of Agricultural Resources: The focus of this program will be on encouraging the formation of Agricultural Commissions as the vehicle to manage, protect, and

promote the interests of farming and agricultural resources. New legislation allows for the establishment of these commissions in NH and their mission is closely aligned with the agricultural priorities identified by CTAP representatives. Forming a partnership with the NH Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture (an informal network of farmers, agricultural organizations and other groups committed to sustaining agriculture in NH) this program would empower communities that want to work on specific, agricultural issues.

Inclusionary Zoning Implementation: The goal of this program is to provide assistance to communities in implementing inclusionary zoning ordinances that would allow for more affordable housing.