

Transportation Advisory Committee Charge

The Concord Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has seven members who are appointed by the Town Manager, with approval from the Select Board, to serve three-year terms.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Report to the Town Manager and Select Board with specific recommendations that can be implemented to support the committee's and town's goals
- Report progress to the Select Board and Town Manager on an ongoing basis

The long-term goal of TAC is to provide a transportation system aligned with Concord's Comprehensive Transportation Strategy, and that is efficient, safe, environmentally sustainable, and convenient for the Town, residents, and visitors.

TAC is the main public-facing entity communicating on transportation safety and improvement projects. It interfaces with Concord residents and advises the Select Board, Town Staff, and Town Committees on a wide variety of transportation and mobility issues, including, but not limited to:

- Advising on the interactions among, and trade-offs between, transportation modes (e.g. motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, rail, and public transit)
- Advising on aspects of Town policies so far as they affect transportation (e.g. zoning, historic preservation, natural resource conservation, public health, and school transportation)
- Assisting in prioritizing transportation and roadway safety improvement projects, in collaboration with citizens and staff, with a focus on improving safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and users of public transit.
- Advising on development and maintenance of transportation infrastructure (e.g. sidewalks, crossings, roads, parking, public transit facilities, public trails, etc.)
- Tracking and advising with respect to regional transportation initiatives that might benefit or harm Concord
- Developing public transportation options that serve the needs of residents, businesses, workers, and visitors
- Educating the public on issues related to transportation, at the local, state, and national level.

- Promoting low-carbon mobility choices, that reduce the reliance on private, gasoline-powered travel

Transportation Advisory Committee Membership Considerations

Transportation is a complicated topic, requiring balancing competing interests and goals of many stakeholders, within and outside the town of Concord

Committee members must consider:

- Many modes of movement: motor vehicles, bicycles, trains, walking, buses, etc.
- And the infrastructure to support those modes: roads, sidewalks, railways, parking spaces, bus stops, train stations, conservation easements, etc.
- The places where these modes meet each other: roadways, crosswalks, railway crossings, depots, bus stops, parks and conservation trails
- The needs of the residents in the town, as well as residents outside the town that traverse the town's roads, conservation trails and other public byways

Committee members must balance competing town goals:

- Funding capacity of the town
- Public Safety
- Environmental sustainability

Above all, Committee members must be excellent communicators:

- Engaging the public, town departments and disparate town committees in a constructive dialogue that surfaces the potential conflict between aspirational goals and financial realities
- With the goal of a full, robust, and transparent dialogue among all interested stakeholders

Ideal Traits for a Transportation Advisory Committee Member

The ideal Transportation Advisory Committee Member is someone who acknowledges the complexity of transportation systems and is prepared to help evaluate useful tradeoffs and develop consensus for transportation initiatives and acceptance of project designs.

Such a member:

- Appreciates the complex interaction of transportation systems, for example that adding or eliminating on-street parking affects the ability to add bicycle lanes to that same road
- Understands that certain transportation project choices might either align or conflict with other Town goals, including historic preservation, natural resource protection, climate change mitigation or resilience, etc.

- Can facilitate public understanding and collaboration to address conflicts between transportation goals and both fiscal constraints and realistic timelines for implementing various types of infrastructure projects or transportation initiatives.

While a specific resume is not determinative of fit, some useful key areas of experience are the following:

- Strategic planning
- Systems analysis
- Urban Planning
- Civil Engineering
- Public Health and Safety
- Legal and Regulatory Expertise
- ADA/Universal Access
- Conservation and Natural Resources Management
- Experience working on or supervising cross-functional teams
- Project management
- Experience presenting complex ideas to non-specialists
- Experience gathering and analyzing data from surveys and other public sources