

Transportation Advisory Committee Charge

The Concord Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is the main public-facing entity advising the Town Manager, Select Board, Town Staff, and Town Committees on a wide variety of transportation and mobility issues.

Purpose

TAC provides the public with a direct pathway for communications and inputs on transportation safety and improvement matters and projects. It coordinates with other Town Committees (e.g., Public Works Commission, Climate Action Committee, etc.) and staff departments and groups (e.g., Community Development, Public Works, Transportation Management Group) and transportation and roadway safety matters.

TAC plays the leading role in advising Town Departments and Commissions, especially Concord Public Works and the Public Works Commission on roadway and transportation safety improvements and projects and serves as the primary body for the collection and evaluation of public requests and public input on the prioritization of those projects.

One important long-term goal of TAC is to advise on the development of a transportation system for Concord aligned with Concord's Comprehensive Transportation Strategy, one that is efficient, safe, environmentally sustainable, and convenient for the Town, residents, and visitors. Once that strategy is in place, TAC advises on the implementation of strategic elements and projects over time.

Typical topics that come before TAC include discussions of:

Multiple 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

Duties and Responsibilities:

The primary duties of TAC include:

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)

Leading the effort to prioritize 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.)

Advising on the interactions among, and trade-offs between, transportation modes (e.g. motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, rail, and public transit)

Tracking developments and advising on regional transportation initiatives that might benefit or harm Concord

Assisting in the development of 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

Reporting to the Town Manager and Select Board with specific recommendations that can be implemented to support the committee's and town's goals

Reporting on progress to the Select Board and Town Manager on an ongoing basis

Membership

TAC has seven members who are appointed by the Town Manager, with approval from the Select Board, to serve three-year terms. Topics and issues that come before TAC include a range of complicated topics, many of which require balancing competing interests and goals of many stakeholders, within and outside the town of Concord. To that end, TAC includes members with a varied set of skills and interests, which in combination help to provide advice based on the complexity of transportation systems. TAC members help evaluate useful tradeoffs and develop consensus for transportation initiatives and acceptance of project designs.

TAC members should have qualifications, skills, and/or interests in key areas including the following:

- Urban planning
- Transportation/civil engineering
- Road safety and data analysis
- Public health
- Public education
- Legal and Regulatory Expertise
- Public policy and governance
- Conservation and Natural Resources Management
- Experience working on or supervising cross-functional teams
- Presentation of complex ideas to non-specialists