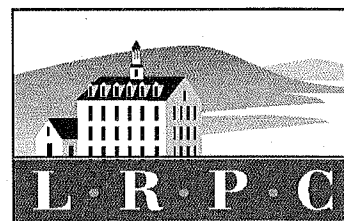



# LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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## MINUTES of August 1, 2007 TRANSPORTATION TAC MEETING Humiston Building Meredith, NH

**TO:** Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Michael Izard, Principal Planner 

**DATE:** August 29, 2007

### MEMBERS PRESENT

#### Voting

Sheldon Morgan, Gilford (Chairman)  
Phyllis Taylor, Danbury (Vice Chairman)  
David Bowles, Tamworth  
Ralph Carter, Sanbornton  
Malcolm Taylor, Holderness  
Bob Barry, New Hampton  
David Kerr, Barnstead  
Chuck Connell, Moultonborough  
Greg Doyon, City of Franklin

#### Non-Voting

Dick Waitt, LRPC Representative  
James Pilliod, Belmont State Representative  
Warren Hutchins, LRPC Commissioner - Laconia

### OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Izard, LRPC  
David Jeffers, LRPC  
Kimon Koulet, LRPC  
Michael Knox, Laconia Daily Sun

#### 1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. He welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the June 6, 2007 TAC meeting were approved as written.  
*M/S/Passed B. Barry/C. Connell*

There was an opportunity for public comment but none was given.

**3. Election of Officers**

The TAC officers nomination and election process was explained by M. Izard. S. Morgan and P. Taylor were unanimously elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively.

**4. Regional Updates**

M. Izard conveyed that the NH Route 25 Corridor Study began with the Kick-Off meeting having been held July 31 in Moultonborough. The project is similar in scope to the NH Route 104 Corridor Study, which is available on the LRPC website. It is anticipated that there will be four more committee meetings. The project involves problem identification, data collection, the development of a Build-Out Analysis, and a written final report with recommendations which is due to NH DOT by April 30, 2008. In response to questions, M. Izard discussed the limits of the study area and pointed out that Corridor Studies are helpful to NH DOT for projects in the Ten Year Plan.

An update on the status of the Regional Transportation Plan was provided by M. Izard and D. Jeffers. At the May TAC Subcommittee meeting it was agreed that there were several goals/strategies in the NH Long-Range Transportation Business Plan that should be added to the regional transportation plan. At the next meeting the Subcommittee will look at the existing goals and objectives to see if they are still applicable. Several of the maps utilized in Plan 2000 have been updated with current data and a template for the maps has been developed so that there will be a consistent look to the document. Three examples maps were distributed. NH DOT has confirmed that the contract for this project has been extended until December 31, 2007.

A topic discussed by the TAC subcommittee was the perceived need to have a written description of TAC member roles and responsibilities. That this information would be especially useful for new TAC members. K. Koulet discussed the role of regional planning commissions in transportation planning through the 1980s and 1990s along with the need for public involvement and the role of TAC members in providing outreach to Selectmen and the public. It was suggested that an orientation packet for new committee members, as well as Selectmen, might be developed and that information on the planning process be included in the regional transportation plan. M. Izard also noted that the Regional Transportation Plan Subcommittee will be looking to incorporate elements of local Master Plan Transportation chapters into the regional plan goals/strategies.

**5. Proposed Changes to the Ten Year Plan**

A draft schedule of Governor's Advisory Council on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) public meetings to discuss the recommendations in the Ten Year Plan was distributed. It was noted that there are two meetings being held in the Lakes Region (Sept. 12 at 8:00 AM in Laconia and Sept. 13 at 11:00 AM in Ossipee). TAC members were encouraged to participate at these meetings and bring their Selectmen too. The meetings represent an opportunity to further discuss locally important aspects of Ten Year Plan projects.

M. Izard distributed a comparison of existing Lakes Region Ten Year Plan projects and the

proposed NH DOT changes. The proposed changes include scope reductions, project timeline extensions, reduction in construction expenditures, and the removal of two projects. Proposed are an over-all reduction of \$58 million in construction costs in the Lakes Region and \$1 billion statewide.

The TAC members discussed a regional response to NH DOT regarding these proposed changes. The TAC members agreed to request a special meeting with NH DOT representatives to learn more about the thought processes involved in the development of the proposed changes. The audience for this meeting should include TAC members and Selectmen. LRPC staff will confirm with Bill Cass, NHDOT Assistant Director of Project Development and notify TAC members of the date, time, and location. LRPC will prepare a letter to inform Board of Selectmen of this meeting.

Several specific projects were discussed including: Barnstead/Alton NH Route 28, Moultonborough NH Route 25, Franklin to Northfield Connector Feasibility Study, Alton/Gilford NH Route 11, and New Hampton/Meredith NH Route 104. Communities were encouraged to explore specific elements of projects that reflect the priority project focus. It was noted that more prioritization and advocacy of priority components of projects might be presented by communities, especially at the GACIT meetings. We are still formulating a regional response, but individual communities should speak to elements of individual projects.

Discussion ensued; topics included earmarks and their impact on the TAC process, the budget for the Ten Year Plan reliance on current (2007) cost estimates, and alternative revenue sources for transportation.

**6. Other**

According to NHDOT, the Transportation Enhancements (TE) program is overextended and there will be a two year delay for submitting new projects.

The NH Rail Transit Authority has been formally recognized by the state, indicating that it could raise funds in the future.

The next meeting of the Regional Transportation Plan Subcommittee will be Wednesday, September 5 at 2:00 PM at the Humiston Building in Meredith. All interested TAC members are encouraged to attend.

**7. Adjourned 3:55 PM**

*M/S/Passed Carter/P. Taylor*