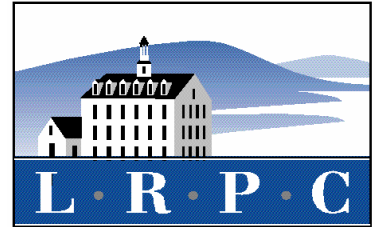


LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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MINUTES of April 2, 2008 TRANSPORTATION TAC MEETING Humiston Building Meredith, NH

TO: Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Michael Izard, Principal Planner

DATE: April 25, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT

Voting

Tink Taylor, Holderness
Rick Alpers, Ashland
Sheldon Morgan, Gilford, Chairman
Mary Ann Abbott, Gilmanton
Dave Bowles, Tamworth
John Edgar, Meredith
David Kerr, Barnstead
Shanna Saunders, Laconia

Non-Voting

Dick Waitt, Gilford (LRPC Representative)

OTHERS PRESENT

Dan Duffy, Tuftonboro
Bill McChesney, Tuftonboro
Paul Anderson – Meredith
Michael Izard, LRPC
David Jeffers, LRPC

1. Call to Order

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM. He welcomed everyone and asked members to state their TAC voting status.

A new representative from Gilmanton and attendees from Tuftonboro were recognized.

2. Public Comment

Chairman Morgan asked if there was any Public Comment; there was none.

3. **Updates on Rail**

T. Taylor explained that the NH Rail Authority (NHRA) meets at the statehouse in Concord monthly. Its focus is on passenger rail into Nashua. NHRA is working with Massachusetts to coordinate this project. Ideally it will have a double rail, make 7-9 trips per day, and be extended to become the Capital Rail Corridor running from Boston through Concord and Montpelier to Montreal. He noted that freight service along this corridor may be viable. At the last meeting the Chairman of the Authority stated that regional planning commissions ought to be putting together their “dream ticket” regarding rail service in their regions. The relatively low cost of rail compared with roads for transporting people and freight was discussed.

4. **Regional Updates**

M. Izard announced that Special Projects Director for the office of Campus Planning at the University of New Hampshire and NH Passenger Rail Transit Authority appointee Steve Pesci will speak on Monday, April 28 at 6:00 PM at the LRPC Area Commission Meeting. This meeting will be held at the Newfound Regional High School and is free and open to the public. This presentation was very well received at the March TAC meeting.

M. Izard suggested Chris Huff of Hannaford as a presenter for an upcoming TAC meeting; he can speak to the topic of commercial transportation of goods in New England.

LRPC submitted three Special Planning and Research (SPR) grant applications to NH DOT April 1; final decisions will be made in late May or early June. The applications included a NH Route 28 Safety Audit, a Master Plan Concept for I-93 Exit 23, and Road Surface Management Systems (RSMS) as a tool to prioritize regional projects.

If funded, the Safety Audit along NH Route 28 from Alton through Epsom will be conducted in conjunction with UNH Technology Transfer Center (T²) and Central NH Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) and examine up to twelve intersections of concern. The I-93 Exit 23 Master Plan will explore development options at this important intersection; this work was recommended NH Route 104 Corridor Study. It will incorporate the Project for Public Spaces – Placemaking methodology. The new version of the RSMS was demonstrated to the TAC at the January meeting by Bob Strobel of T². The LRPC proposed purchasing the software and hardware required to assess road conditions. This would be utilized for regional TIP project prioritization and for work with individual communities.

The LRPC staff has also helped prepare SPR proposals to further work on the Grafton County Coordinated Transit System with Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC and North Country Council and the Belknap/Merrimack Coordinated Transit System with Central NHRPC.

The grant round has opened for the Safe Routes to Schools program through NH DOT. Start-up funding is available. Bristol and Ossipee are applying for funds under this program.

Additional information is available at the LRPC website www.lakesrpc.org.

5. Discussion: Prioritization of Regional Projects

The TAC was provided copies of the criteria used to prioritize regional projects in 2001. It was discussed that projects removed from the Ten Year Plan should be considered for prioritization and that the criteria used could be updated to reflect NH DOT focus on preservation of corridor capacity, pavement improvements, and safety. The recently updated goals and objectives in the regional transportation plan should be reflected in any criteria used to prioritize projects.

Caution was urged by J. Edgar to manage local expectations regarding project re-submittal. It was also pointed out that while NH DOT has a responsibility to implement work; communities are not entitled to a project. There was also discussion regarding the readiness of a community to implement.

Motion: Provide LRPC staff direction for developing a scoring criterion to be revised by the subcommittee at subsequent meetings.

M/S/Passed *JE/MAA*

LRPC will attempt to get sample criteria from other RPCs. The revaluation will be applied to the 89% of the Lakes Region projects which were removed from in the state Ten-Year Plan.

Motion: To appoint a three-member editorial group to work with LRPC staff on refining the scoring criteria sheet.

M/S/Passed *DB/MAA*

J. Edgar, S. Saunders, T. Taylor volunteered to be on the editorial group.

TAC discussion on the 2001 scoring criteria included the following points:

rework the wording on #6 regarding “intermodal”,

Does #2B “congestion” address “capacity”?

Is the state looking for innovation (#9) or “Tried and True”?

Is it necessary to include #8 or is this a prerequisite?

There should be a clearer description of points and perhaps a sliding scale not just Y/N?

Is the support current, has it been realistic?

How is “readiness to implement” measured?

Is there a relationship to Regional Plan?

Is there a relevance to neighboring RPC?

6. Other Business

Next meeting – May 7 at 2:00 PM in Meredith at the Humiston Building.

7. Adjourned 4:00 PM

M/S/Passed *M. A. Abbot/T. Taylor*