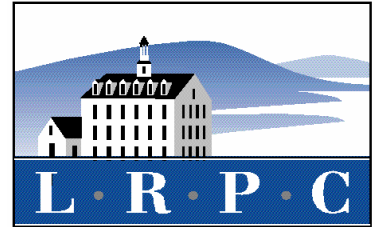


LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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TO: Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Michael Izard, Principal Planner

DATE: September 22, 2008

MINUTES of September 3, 2008 TRANSPORTATION TAC MEETING
Gilford Town Hall
Gilford, NH

MEMBERS PRESENT

Voting

Sheldon Morgan, Gilford (Chairman)
David Bowles, Tamworth
David Kerr, Barnstead
Ralph Carter, Sanbornton
John Edgar, Meredith
Steve Favorite, Bristol
Elizabeth Corrow, City of Franklin
David Ford, Wolfeboro
Center Sanders, Tilton

OTHERS PRESENT

Dick Waitt, LRPC Executive Board
Dean Eastman, NH DOT/ Planning
Susan Colten, Tamworth
Harrison Haas, The Citizen
Representative Jim Pilliod, MD, Belmont
Michael Izard, LRPC
David Jeffers, LRPC

1. Call to Order

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM and asked each person to introduce themselves. He welcomed everyone.

2. Public Input

The Chairman asked for public input, there was none.

3. Approval of Minutes

The May 8, 2008 Minutes were approved as written.

M/S/Passed Bowles/Carter

The June 4, 2008 Minutes were approved as written.

M/S/Passed Carter/Edgar

4. Election of Officers

S. Morgan was nominated to serve as Chairman (*M/S Carter/Bowles*).

R. Carter was nominated to serve as Vice-Chairman (*M/S Bowles/Kerr*).

It was moved that the nominations be closed (*M/S T. Taylor/Bowles*).

S. Morgan and R. Carter were elected unanimously as Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the 2009 fiscal year.

Chairman Morgan noted that there are several Lakes Region communities that either have not named a representative to the TAC or whose representative's term is due to expire. M. Izard commented that these communities and individuals have been notified of their TAC representative status. R. Waitt noted that he has been asked by the LRPC Executive Board to continue to be the LRPC Representative.

5. Regional Updates

M. Izard reported that all five Safe Routes to Schools (SRtS) applications had been recommended by the statewide committee for approval. Included are a full application from Ossipee and start-up applications from Bristol, Freedom, Moultonborough, and Wolfeboro. The next step is for Commissioner Campbell and Governor and Executive Council approval.

The next SRtS round will likely begin in November; communities are encouraged to apply; contact LRPC or John Corrigan, NH DOT Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator for details. M. Izard explained that the role of the RPCs is to both assist communities in the application process and also score each application before forwarding recommendations to NH DOT. A full application requires that some work such as surveys of students and parents be completed in advance by the schools. The TAC should become involved in the scoring process in this next round.

LRPC submitted three Statewide Planning and Research (SPR) grant applications; one was approved. The Commission will begin work this fall on the NH Route 28 Safety Study in conjunction with Central NH RPC. This project is awaiting Governor and Executive Council approval.

LRPC has begun working with both North Country Council (NCC) and Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC (UVLSRPC) on Coordinated Transit Plans that incorporate LRPC member communities. The NCC plan has developed a Steering Committee. The TAC will be kept updated on these plans and asked to adopt the final plan. The UVLSRPC is planning a Transportation Summit for the fall; about 100 people are expected and RSVPs are required.

6. Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Scoring

A draft letter to communities and a draft project scoring sheet were distributed. There was discussion regarding the draft letter and the e-mail comments received from Bill Watson of NH DOT. The letter states the purpose behind project prioritization and gives communities the opportunity to revise project descriptions based on the stated TAC criteria.

As a result of this discussion, M. Izard will revise the letter to: add a description of the TIP process and timeline; clarify which projects will be reviewed by the TAC; and further explain that while new projects are may be considered in accordance with the legislative language contained in the newly adopted 10 Year Plan, adding projects will be discouraged in favor of ranking previously identified regional priorities which were recently removed from the 10 Year Plan due to funding constraints. Additional guidance is needed from NHDOT on what constitutes an “Emergency Project” under the Legislature’s definition. The letter shall be approved by the TAC before being sent out to communities which marks the start of the TIP update process.

M. Izard also sought comment from the TAC regarding the scoring criteria as to whether these items reflect the TAC’s priorities and whether some questions should have greater weight than others. After some discussion it was decided that if members had immediate comments, they should be conveyed to LRPC by September 17, 2008. The TIP subcommittee will meet again prior to the October 1, 2008 TAC meeting to further revise the scoring criteria.

7. Presentation: “Statewide Coordination of Community Transportation Services”

Patrick Herlihy of NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Kit Morgan of NH DOT updated the TAC on the status of this public transportation program. After giving some background on the purpose and history of the program, they described the current situation of public transportation in the state, including funding issues both real and perceived.

The goal of the program is to better use resources to improve services. This depends on reducing duplicative efforts. The plan is to meet local needs through the use of a statewide structure with a Statewide Coordinating Council (SCC), Regional Coordinating Councils (RCC) and Regional Transportation Coordinators (RTC).

Regardless of who is administering a transportation program, if they are utilizing Medicaid, NH DOT, or DHHS funds, they will need to be involved in this coordination process.

8. Adjourned 4:06 PM *M/S/Passed Bowles/Carter*