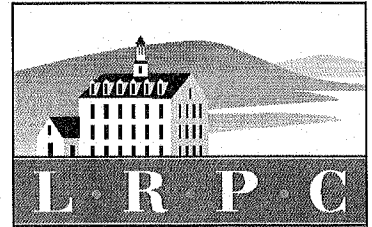


LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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TO: LRPC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Michael Izard, Principal Planner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Izard', is written over the name 'Michael Izard' in the 'FROM' line.

DATE: September 1, 2010

Minutes of June 2, 2010
LRPC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
Meredith Community Center
Meredith, NH

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Sheldon Morgan, Gilford - Chairman
Jeff Haines, Center Harbor
Rick Ball, Belmont
John Gotjen, Tamworth
Scott Kimmond, Moultonborough
Brad Harriman, Ossipee – Vice Chairman

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Izard, LRPC
David Jeffers, LRPC
R. Murray Campbell, Bristol
Dick Waitt, LRPC Representative (Gilford)
Liz Laflin, Meredith Pathways Committee
Dean Eastman, NH DOT Bureau of Planning
and Community Assistance

1. Call to Order

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the May 5, 2010 meeting as written.

M/S/Passed Gotjen/Haines

Public Input: L. Laflin described the efforts of the Meredith Pathways Committee. Five walking and cycling paths around Meredith have been designated and mapped. The difficulty of each path is noted and an important element is the connectivity of the paths. They will be holding a kick-off meeting Saturday, June 5.

2. Regional Updates

M. Izard thanked Ms. Laflin for her input and noted the connection to the regional bicycle and pedestrian plan. He reminded the TAC that the 2004 regional bike/ped plan focused on the Regional Connector, a series of off-road trails and ports of call that would enable users to travel across the Lakes Region from Franklin to Meredith and on to Wolfeboro with spurs

breaking off from this route. Numerous connections to other routes outside the region were also highlighted in the 2004 plan. Connector communities have been making progress in the development of several segments funded through Transportation Enhancement (TE) program, including a the Elm Street Bridge to downtown Laconia section of the Winnisquam Opechee, Winnipiesaukee (WOW) trail which has a recent ribbon cutting ceremony.

The current update effort for the regional plan seeks to go beyond the Regional Connector with a focus on what opportunities presently exist for biking and walking. The intent is to

focus on nodal patterns, accessibility, and connectivity between activity centers within the region. Phase I of the plan update is targeted at conducting research, in part through a community survey, to update an infrastructure inventory. LRPC will collect information on existing facilities such as the availability of restrooms, showers, and bike racks. Phase II will involve hosting a meeting to explore regional connectivity.

There was further discussion of the Meredith Pathways program, its focus on walking, promotional efforts, connections with tourism businesses and Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health, and exploration of a Safe Routes to Schools (SRtS) program. It was noted that Central NH Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) is hosting a SRtS conference on June 11 in Concord.

M. Izard provided a report on the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). An updated list of priority road segment and intersection safety improvements is due out in August. The list, referred to as the "5 Percent List", is comprised of the top 5% most hazardous highway segments/intersections statewide based on the fatalities and property damages. For safety concerns not identified on the list municipalities may petition have a project included with supporting documentation. M. Izard conveyed that Stuart Thompson, NHDOT noted there may be a new HSIP funding source for projects that did not make it onto the 5 Percent List; this information will be presented to RPC Directors at an upcoming meeting.

Two part-time seasonal Transportation Technicians have been hired by LRPC to conduct traffic counts; they begin work June 4. This year 143 counts will be set out as requested by NH DOT. Twelve additional counts will be conducted for Laconia Bike Week. Traffic counts are scheduled around the NHDOT paving and construction schedules and communities are notified when equipment is deployed locally through the police departments.

3. Transportation Planning Collaborative

M. Izard noted that a June meeting of the Transportation Planning Collaborative is anticipated, the date and time are to be determined; this is an opportunity for RPCs and DOT to hold regular discussions on topics of mutual interest. One topic on the upcoming agenda is the Cooperatively Developed Revenue Forecast, a budgeting tool. NHDOT has encouraged the planning commissions to explore this topic and possible consensus on how transportation improvement funds could be equitably budgeted by planning regions statewide. Samples methodologies will be provided by NHDOT for discussion, which include budgeting by region based on population and miles of roadway. TAC discussion ensued which included concern that population and miles of roadway based budgeting does

not account for highway improvements resulting from wear and tear due to the influx of traffic in a tourist/second home area like the Lakes Region.

4. Highway Block Grant Aid

M. Izard noted that each Lakes Region community saw some drop in Highway Block Grant Aid. The amount of the Block Grant money for each community is based on Class V mileage and population of the community.

5. Regional Approach to Scenic Byways

M. Izard and D. Eastman provided the TAC with background information about the Scenic Byways program. A Lakes Region Scenic Byway Committee was established in the late 1990s, segments of roadway received state byway designation, and a Corridor Management Plan was developed. The committee has been inactive for a number of years. NH DOT encourages byways to reactivate their Scenic Byways Committees and update byway management plans. Designated byways without plans and active committees risk de-designation by the NHDOT. The TAC is the logical body to begin the exploration of whether municipalities wish to maintain the Scenic Byways designation.

Adjustments to the existing LRPC transportation scope of work with NHDOT, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) may require revision to enable LRPC staff to devote time to the process of establishing exploring community interest in the byways program. Plan development would be eligible for byway funding, which is a reimbursement program that provides 80 percent federal funding with a 20 percent match requirement. A Letter of Intent (LOI) is now required for byway projects that describes the project and provides an approximate cost. Letters need to be submitted to NH DOT between October 15 and November 15, 2010 for funding in 2011. J. Edgar noted that Scenic Byway designation has connections to not only land use but also economic development and local projects.

Consensus was reached that the LRPC staff would finalize the draft letter seeking local support and involvement in the effort to re-establish a local Scenic Byways Committee and it should be sent to selectmen with copies going to town planners and TAC members. There was discussion regarding sections that were designated in the 1990s and which communities to contact. Up to three representatives per byway community will be requested with a response date of July 15. TAC representatives will need to do some local public outreach on this topic. D. Eastman suggested that the initial effort be focused on securing municipal support and involvement; once this is accomplished, there can and should be an effort to involve the business communities.

6. Other Business

M. Izard reported that the proposal to develop a Carroll County Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) for public transportation opportunities proposed by LRPC and North Country Council was approved by NHDOT.

The Region 3 RCC (Belknap-Merrimack) will meet at the Belmont Senior Center June 9 at 2:00 PM. This Steering Committee is working on long-term commitment from stakeholders to appoint representatives to a newly formed RCC.

The next TAC meeting will be on Wednesday, August 4, 2010 at 9:00 AM, at the Meredith Community Center. This will be a joint meeting of the TAC and the newly formed Scenic Byways Exploratory Committee.

7. **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

M/S/Passed Taylor/Haines