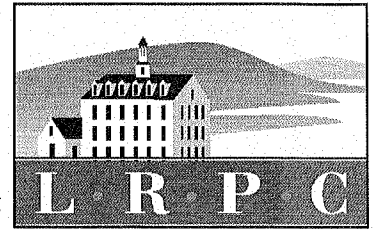


LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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TO: LRPC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Michael IZARD, Principal Planner

DATE: September 27, 2010

Minutes of September 1, 2010
LRPC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
Humiston Building, Meredith, NH

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Sheldon Morgan, Gilford (Chairman)
Jeff Haines, Center Harbor
David Kerr, Barnstead
John Gotjen, Tamworth
R. Murray Campbell, Bristol
Malcolm Taylor, Holderness
John Edgar, Meredith
Steve Favorite, Bristol
David Ford, Wolfeboro

OTHERS PRESENT

Dick Waitt, LRPC Representative (Gilford)
Michael IZARD, LRPC
David Jeffers, LRPC

1. Call to Order

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM. He noted that several member's terms have expired. Letters requesting committee appointments have been sent to communities with vacancies and members whose term have expired.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the June 2, 2010 meeting as written.
M/S/Passed Gotjen/Taylor

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the August 4, 2010 with a date revision.
M/S/Passed Favorite/Taylor

2. Regional Updates

M. IZARD reported the completion of 143 NHDOT requested traffic counts this week. The commission successfully employed a new data collection format this year that relied on two

part-time, seasonal transportation technicians deploying traffic counters twice each week. Raw data is checked in the field then sent to NHDOT on a weekly basis for quality assurance and acceptance. Seasonally adjusted counts for 2010 should be available early in 2011 at the NHDOT website:

<http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/operations/traffic/documents.htm>

LRPC conducts counts each year for the city of Laconia during Bike Week and is available to conduct traffic counts at the request of municipalities as time permits.

Members were notified of the 2010 Community Transportation Summit that will be held November 18 from 8:30 – 4:00 in Concord. The focus of the summit will be on sharing the successes of the recently established Regional Coordinating Councils (RCC). TAC members are invited to attend; space is limited. For more information, visit <http://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/scc/>.

Transport Central, with the North Country Council, Lakes Region Planning Commission, and Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission will be holding two public meetings to present the draft Plymouth Area Transit Feasibility Study on Wednesday September 29 at the Plymouth Regional Senior Center. The first session will be at 1:00 PM, the second at 7:00 PM. The study focuses on the Transport Central service area which includes 19 communities around Plymouth, including Alexandria, Ashland, Bridgewater, Bristol, Hebron, Holderness, and New Hampton Lakes Region communities. The study was prepared by consultant Nelson Nygaard and a steering committee with LRPC representation. The draft plan will be available on the LRPC website prior to the public meetings.

The Safe Routes to Schools (SRtS) Grant Round 5 will open October 4 and close November 30. NHDOT anticipates approximately \$1 million to award through this 100 percent reimbursement program in this grant round. Infrastructure projects have a cap of \$250,000 for municipalities with a travel plan, \$100,000 without a travel plan. More information is available on the NHDOT Safe Routes to Schools webpage at:

<http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/srts/index.htm>.

M. Izard noted that LRPC has met with the town of Belmont about a planning grant. S. Favorite reported that Bristol will be submitting an application this grant round. The TAC is responsible for scoring SRtS applications within two months of the submission deadline and should plan to conduct SRtS scoring at its January meeting.

M. Izard reported that the Scenic Byways Exploratory Committee met August 24 and it appears that they would like to have LRPC write a Corridor Management Plan. The committee discussed sources for the required 20 percent match. At their September 14 meeting they will discuss a Letter of Intent and scope of work details. There was discussion of the desire to get representation from all of the byway communities and a standing request for local documentation supporting community acceptance of corridor segments.

North Country Council and LRPC were awarded funding to develop an RCC in Carroll County. Staff is working on a Request for Proposals to identify a consultant to facilitate this effort.

M. Izard reported that LRPC staff met with staff from NH DOT for a mid-contract review of work progress on the Unified Planning and Work Program (UPWP). The meeting was positive. Staff will be working on developing adjustments to the UPWP scope of work. Modifications such as adding a Scenic Byways effort will require swapping work already in the scope; it was noted that there has been little call for LRPC to work on CSS (Context Sensitive Solutions) projects this year.

Road agents, DPW staff, and municipal officials are invited to attend a Road Salt Reduction Workshop on October 29 from 8:00 – 2:30 in Tamworth. The workshop will be presented by UNH Technology Transfer Center. The Green Mountain Conservation Group is offering to cover the \$60 registration fee for one participant from each of the Ossipee Aquifer communities: Effingham, Freedom, Ossipee, Tamworth, and Sandwich.

3. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

M. Izard conveyed that a NHDOT “Top 100 List” of road segments and intersections in need of safety improvements was released in August. The priorities are established based on historic accident data. Ten intersections in the Lakes Region have been identified. NHDOT has indicated that up to 100 percent of the improvement costs will be funded. Highway Safety Audits were discussed as a tool that can help a community determine the Cost - Benefit ratio of road improvements as the municipality explores improvement options.

4. Upcoming TAC Responsibilities

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update process will begin this year; guidance from NHDOT is anticipated this fall. Early indications from NHDOT are that no new projects will be accepted without removal of an equivalent project however this is not official until guidance has been issued. A TIP discussion will likely occupy the November TAC agenda.

The state Long Range Transportation Plan has been posted for public comment. The plan has been revised since the public process in 2008. TAC meetings may be used to host public meetings on the plan.

5. Other Business

The next TAC meeting will be on Wednesday, October 6, 2010 at 2:00 PM, the location will be determined.

6. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

M/S/Passed Ford/Favorite

