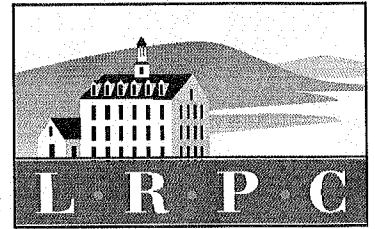



# LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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TO: LRPC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Michael IZARD, Principal Planner 

DATE: December 1, 2010

**Minutes of November 3, 2010**  
**LRPC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting**  
Franklin City Hall  
Franklin, NH

## VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

R. Murray Campbell, Bristol  
Steve Favorite, Bristol  
Elizabeth Dragon, Franklin  
Sheldon Morgan, Gilford - Chair  
Shanna Saunders, Laconia  
Dan Merhalski, Moultonborough  
Glenn Smith, Northfield  
Brad Harriman, Vice-Chair (Ossipee)

## OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Abrams, NH DES, Air Resources Division  
Michael IZARD, LRPC  
David Jeffers, LRPC  
Pat Constantino, Tilton Selectmen  
Roger LaFontaine, Newfound Pathways  
Jane Alden, Tilton CHAT  
Cindy Gonnerman, Tilton CHAT  
Pat Consentino, Tilton Selectman  
Dean Eastman, NH DOT Bureau of Planning  
and Community Assistance  
Kathleen Brockett, NH DES, Air Resources  
Division

### 1. Call to Order and Introduction

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M.; he thanked the city of Franklin for hosting. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the September 27, 2010 meeting as written.

M/S/Passed Dragon/Harriman

### 2. Regional Updates

Air Quality – K. Brockett and E. Abrams updated the TAC on Air Quality data (handout). There were nine days when an air quality monitoring site in NH exceeded the ozone standard; two of those exceedances were recorded in Laconia (May 2 and September 3, 010). The 2008 standard, established for public health protection, is lower than the 1997 standard. Most of the exceedances registered around the state would not have exceeded the 1997 standard. An updated standard is anticipated by the EPA; which is expected to lower acceptable ozone levels from 0.075 to 0.060 parts per million. Miller State Park and Mount Washington are high elevation sampling sites; they indicate transport of ozone particles.

Violations are based on three year's worth of measurements; exceedances refer to one day limits.

EPA funding was just announced for diesel emission reduction programs; details will be distributed to RPCs. Eric Abrams, Transportation Analyst will officially take over as the NH DES Air Quality Representative to Lakes Region TAC.

Scenic Byway Exploratory Committee: Draft Recommendations - M. Izard expressed gratitude to Laconia planning staff that assisted revising a draft letter to Lakes Region Tour Scenic Byway communities reporting on the findings of the Exploratory Committee. After four meetings, the Exploratory Committee recommends rewriting the 1999 Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan; and that LRPC submit a Letter of Intent and ultimately apply for federal funding to do this work. D. Eastman and M. Izard have made scenic byways presentations to the boards of selectmen in Moultonborough and Ashland in recent weeks. LRPC will be in touch with other communities to address program questions and gauge interest in program participation. Letters of Intent are due by December 1.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) – Memo

The Top 100 Intersections List (5% List) was distributed. Nine intersections (seven communities) in the Lakes Region are on the list of priority safety improvements. LRPC and DOT are working with the towns of Gilford and Meredith to conduct safety audits at intersections identified on the list. TAC members were provided a copy of a memo distributed to Town Managers and Administrators seeking local input on:

- Previously identified safety improvements, source and local support;
- Interest in road safety audits for intersections without identified improvements;
- Other locations recommended for further evaluation.

To date, Laconia DPW has responded to these questions and suggested several additional intersections for consideration. Applications are available for communities interested conducting in a road safety audit. Safety improvements are 90% funded by NHDOT with the potential for 100 percent funding for projects on state highways. If a community feels that it has intersections that should be added to the Top 100 List, it can petition to NH DOT to have it reviewed for inclusion.

### **3. TAC Election of Officers**

Nominations from the Floor

Chairman Morgan asked for nominations for TAC Chairman for the upcoming year.

A motion was made to elect S. Morgan as the Chairman of the TAC for the next year.

M/S/Passed Harriman/Favorite

Chairman Morgan asked for nominations for TAC Vice-Chairman for the upcoming year.

A motion was made to elect B. Harriman as the Vice-Chairman of the TAC for the next year.

M/S/Passed Dragon/Morgan

4. **TAC Rules of Procedures**

Chairman Morgan and M. Izard led a discussion considering a uniform expiration date for TAC terms and an extension of term length from two years to three years.

A motion was made to recommend the LRPC Commission revise TAC Rules of Procedure as follows: three year voting TAC member terms; with staggered term expirations with membership divided in to three equally sized groups (ten member's terms expire in 2011, ten in 2012, and ten in 2013); and with terms expiring on an established day for all members (e.g. June 30).

M/S/Passed Harriman/Favorite

The new method could take effect as current terms expire. It was suggested that it might be practical to set the renewal date for after Town Meeting since select boards tend to make appointments at that time. This method of membership renewal might utilize the three TAC sub-regions.

There was discussion of developing a new member packet to help new TAC representatives get up to speed more quickly; S. Saunders offered to assist with development of such materials. It was noted that Brookfield should be omitted from the list of communities in the Rules of Procedure, as it is no longer a member of this RPC region.

TAC non-voting membership consists of appointees from various organizations. Currently, all positions are not filled; when exploring filling the positions it may also be an opportune time for the TAC to consider amending the list of organizations. This might also include a follow up note to the existing list of named organizations, reminding them of their eligibility to sit on this committee. It was suggested that every local Planning Department be listed as a non-voting member, enabling them to receive regular mailings.

5. **Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties (BM-CAP):  
Transportation Initiatives – Terri Paige, Mobility Manager**

T. Paige described her role in the newly created Mobility Manager position with BM-CAP. She noted that BM-CAP is seeking funding for a second position, also focused on transportation. Her position has three parts a) communicating what services are available, how they work, and how they can be accessed, b) finding ways to enable the various transportation programs work better together, and c) increasing ridership. She outlined the four different types of transportation provided by the BM-CAP: CAT – the Concord Area Transit System, the Winnepesaukee Transit System (WTS), the Rural Transportation System - a collection of senior transit programs through the senior centers coordinated by CAP, and the Para-transit units - associated with the CAT program that is a separate vehicle for door-to-door transit for persons with disabilities.

T. Paige explained that in order to meet DOT requirements for receiving funds for the upcoming year, the WTS route had to eliminate stops; it now has ten stops and will make on-demand stops within a quarter mile of the fixed route. Route changes were made based on both ridership and importance to the community; the route to Gilford was completely eliminated. BM-CAP will be going to DOT for another round of funding in March.

WTS is making a concerted effort to boost ridership in the coming months. Ridership on the WTS in 2009 was 10,000 and needs to increase to secure further funding. DOT funding requires a match; the communities served by the system have provided this in the past. This year CAP put up the match; businesses and malls along the route will be approached as well as the four communities for future match funds. Members of the public voiced support for the system along with concern about the elimination of several specific stops in Franklin and Tilton, pointing out that the system serves an important role in the region.

The WTS provides rides to the general public. T. Paige described how users can call-in requests for rides (Demand/Response), both for one time call-ins as well as scheduling repeat pick-ups. Suggestions were made for improved outreach to get the word out to potential users regarding Demand/Response and use by the general public.

T. Paige described her efforts to work across funding silos and coordinate with services and groups outside of the region. There was an explanation of the Tri-River Intergenerational Program (TRIP) Center, a community center for all age groups.

The fare for the WTS has not increased this year. Some suggestions were made for funding, especially through advertising. The business plan was discussed, addressing topics such as website updates and ticket purchases, contacting welfare and unemployment offices, and putting press releases on cable television. It was suggested that links to the B-M CAP transportation website be placed on LRPC's webpage.

**6. TAC Members – Overview of Current Transportation Projects**

E. Dragon reported that Franklin is getting ready to do a downtown transportation project. The original project encompassed all of Central Street but only \$800,000 was available. The amended project will focus on egress and ingress to Mill District with changes to traffic flow and improvements to lighting in the area.

S. Favorite reported that Bristol is waiting for sign off on its Transportation Enhancements and Safe Routes to Schools projects. The town has applied to the US Army Corps of Engineers for a grant to work on a river trail linking downtown with Profile Falls; some problems exist with snowmobile access and property acquisition.

**7. Other Business**

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 1, 2010 2:00 PM in Meredith.

**8. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

M/S/Passed Favorite/Harriman