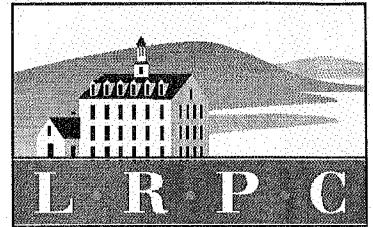



LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

103 Main Street, Suite #3
Meredith, NH 03253
tel (603) 279-8171
fax (603) 279-0200
www.lakesrpc.org



TO: LRPC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Michael Izard, Principal Planner 

DATE: March 3, 2011

Minutes of January 5, 2011
LRPC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
Bristol Town Hall
Bristol, NH

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

R. Murray Campbell, Bristol
Steve Favorite, Bristol
John Gotjen, Tamworth
Sheldon Morgan, Gilford - Chairman
Robert Barry, New Hampton
Dan Merhalski, Moultonborough
Glenn Smith, Northfield
Brad Harriman, Vice-Chairman (Ossipee)
David Ford, Wolfeboro

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Abrams, NH DES, Air Resources Division
Michael Izard, LRPC
David Jeffers, LRPC
Joan Clinton, NHDOT Rideshare
Joe Denning, Bristol Selectman
Ginny Schneider, Belknap-Merrimack CAP
Terry Paige, Belknap-Merrimack CAP
Dick Waitt, LRPC Representative
Dean Eastman, NHDOT Bureau of Planning
and Community Assistance
Lisa Rixen, Belknap County Conservation
District

1. Call to Order and Introduction

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 2:09 P.M.; he thanked the town of Bristol for hosting the meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the December 1, 2010 meeting as written.

M/S/Passed Merhalski/Favorite

2. Regional Updates

M. Izard introduced G. Schneider, the new Transportation Director at Belknap-Merrimack Community Action Program (BMCAP). She gave a brief summary of her experience and her role in this new position.

T. Paige, Mobility Manager for BMCAP shared updates regarding the Winnepesaukee Transit System (WTS) and the other transit systems in BMCAP. She has distributed 2,000 schedules and maps for WTS. This includes refilling holders at Town Hall in Tilton and the Franklin and Laconia City Halls. She has given thirteen presentations, mainly at housing developments. She notes that the Rural Transportation System is an important piece of the

puzzle. Additionally, she is working with local radio stations for in-kind advertising and has distributed a survey and publicity through Lakes Region Community College. There has been some discussion regarding B-M CAP being represented at the Lakes Region TAC.

3. Safe Routes to Schools – Grant Round 5

M. Izard distributed a handout to show the scores for the one proposal that had been submitted for the region (Bristol). Three TAC members and one LRPC staff member scored the application; the scores ranged from 91 to 113 for an averaged score of 102 out of 120 possible points; this compares favorably with state-wide scores from past grant rounds. This score will be averaged with the DOT staff score for a final application score. A motion was made to forward the score to the appropriate authorities.

M/S/Passed Harriman/Ford

4. TIP / Ten Year Plan Update

M. Izard distributed a handout listing the seven Lakes Region projects that are included in the state Ten Year Plan and the twelve additional projects that have been identified as regional priorities. There was discussion of construction costs and types of projects.

Changes have occurred on a few projects on the regional contingency list:

- US 3/ NH Route 11B (Laconia) will receive HSIP funding for a roundabout to address safety issues in the near future (2011 construction?)
- Wolfeboro NH Route 28 is moving forward by considering smaller project components and utilizing some municipal funds.
- NH Route 11 Channell Rd. to Hoyt Rd. (Andover) –improvements have been made; District 3 indicates the problem has been resolved.
- Bristol Central Square Redesign has received TE funds to make needed pedestrian safety improvements.

No guidance has yet been received from NH DOT regarding the TIP update process. A letter has been drafted to be sent to communities seeking submissions from communities if they have projects to be considered for an updated plan. This draft letter attempts to strike a balance between encouraging new projects and being realistic about the likelihood of new projects being added to the already overscheduled list of projects. There was discussion as to whether the TAC needs to revisit the TIP scoring criteria. Having the criteria stated in the initial letter would be helpful to communities in deciding whether to submit a project. The TAC will need to get any recommendations approved and to the Commissioners for their April 24 meeting; so project submissions will need to be considered by the TAC at the March and April meetings.

It was determined by the TAC that all municipalities wishing to be considered in the TIP update need to submit a new letter of support for their contingency project(s).

A motion was made for staff to finalize and send out the TIP update process letter, accompanied by the 2009 TIP Process Guide with previously established project evaluation criteria.

M/S/Passed Ford/Kerr

5. Presentation: State Rideshare Program

J. Clinton described the State Rideshare program offered through NH DOT Bureau of Rail and Transit and upcoming changes. It is a program to match those seeking rides with people who are driving to a similar location. There are currently 1,600 people in the database. Currently program staff coordinate between 25 -50 requests per month. New software will make the matching process much quicker and reliable than in the past. The new version, which will also include transit system routes as potential ride providers, should be fully functional in April. This is a free service. This software is the same as what is being utilized in Maine and Vermont, enabling this to be a shared database.

This program has focused on commuting but the new software will have a Trip Module which could do event planning, so that those wishing to carpool to a conference in Boston or a ski trip could establish a connection for that particular event.

There was a discussion of marketing and cost reduction. There is some program signage in RideShare lots. J. Clinton stated that while the cheapest and best way to get the word out is through employers, this is not mandated in NH. She is available to meet with employers and willing to work with RPCs and described some incentives by employers (time off, pizza parties, etc.); once people begin RideSharing, they rarely go back.

There was discussion of how this might impact a person's Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and possible insurance ramifications; depending on the policy, some may get a reduction in insurance rates. Several TAC members suggested modes of getting the word out about this in the region including posting links on municipal and RPC websites, Public Service Announcements, Energy Committees, and the Triathlons – Trip Module.

J. Clinton updated the TAC on the status of Park and Ride Lots in the Lakes Region. Three currently exist; New Hampton (15 spaces) is at 100% capacity and expansion is planned, Belmont (42 spaces) is a 25% of capacity, and Tilton (63 spaces) at 15% of capacity. Interest has been expressed by Northfield and Sanbornton; currently there is no funding. Some communities in the state applied for funding through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) but none were accepted. Some communities in Vermont have developed state and local partnerships. There was also discussion of private-public partnerships and incentives that the TAC might utilize to encourage Park and Rides and the use of transit.

6. Other Business

E. Abrams distributed a copy of the health effects of ozone to address questions from the last meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 2, 2011 at 2:00 PM in Meredith.

7. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

M/S/Passed Barry/Ford

