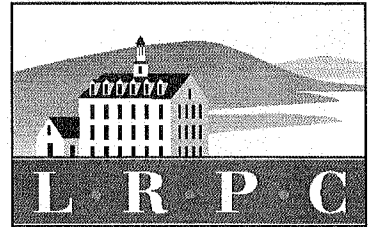



# LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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**To:** Lakes Region Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

**From:** Michael Izard, Principal Planner 

**Date:** April 6, 2011

**Minutes of March 2, 2011**  
**LRPC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting**  
Humiston Building, Suite #1  
Meredith, NH

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Kerr, Barnstead  
Rick Ball, Belmont  
R. Murray Campbell, Bristol  
Steve Favorite, Bristol  
Sheldon Morgan, Gilford - Chairman  
Malcolm Taylor, Holderness  
Shanna Saunders, Laconia  
Glenn Smith, Northfield  
Brad Harriman, Vice-Chairman (Ossipee)  
John Gotjen, Tamworth  
David Ford, Wolfeboro

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dick Waitt, LRPC Representative (Gilford)  
Dean Eastman, NH DOT  
Eric Abrams, NH DES, Air Resources Division  
Richard Lewis, Franklin  
Michael Izard, LRPC  
David Jeffers, LRPC  
Kimon Koulet, LRPC  
Ginny Schnieder, Belknap-Merrimack CAP  
Angela LaBrecque, Meredith

**1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January 5, 2011 meeting as written.

M/S/Passed Kerr/Favorite

**2. Transportation Legislative Update**

K. Koulet provided an update on six transportation bills that the NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions (NHARPC) is tracking. HB 218 would repeal the NH Rail Transit Authority; NHARPC is opposed. M. Taylor noted that the majority of the public testimony at a recent hearing was against the bill, though the House Transportation Committee has recommended the bill for passage. HB 264 would suspend the tolls in Merrimack for a limited period of time. This has been retained in committee. HB 471 and 472 sought to alter tolling along the Everett Turnpike and in the Nashua area. Both bills were deemed inexpedient to legislate. HB 621 would provide municipalities with an expedited permit process (permit by notification) for routine excavation and roadway maintenance. No

committee action has been taken. D. Ford spoke in favor of this bill. Upon passage of SB 78 the motor vehicle registration fee increases enacted in 2009 would be eliminated. This action would result in the loss of \$6 million to the state, which is part of the current year budget. These funds are utilized to leverage \$38 million in federal funds. Both NH DOT and the Governor have asked for the continuation of these fees. A handout was distributed showing the impact, should this bill pass, on the six Ten-Year Plan projects in the Lakes Region. The result would be an \$11.6 million reduction in the current \$28 million road improvements scheduled in the region. The Senate Transportation Committee has recommended this bill for passage. The NHARPC is opposed to this bill and K. Koulet encouraged TAC members and their communities to contact the Senate Finance Committee along with other legislators to urge them not only to vote against this bill but to extend the registration fees for another two years. Handouts were provided with contact information for state senators, house representatives, and finance committee members. General discussion ensued where it was suggested that the most effective way of lobbying is to meet with individual legislators.

K. Koulet noted that LRPC had received a call from an individual interested in funding shoulders for biking around Lake Winnepesaukee.

### 3. **TIP Update Process**

M. Izard reminded the TAC that the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) update process has begun and that Lakes Region projects need to be reviewed and new projects considered. A document with supporting project information submitted by Lakes communities was distributed.

#### **TIP Projects Status:**

##### **Contingency List Projects**

M. Izard gave a brief summary of each project, beginning with those that were on the contingency list:

Wolfeboro – NH Route 28 - materials include updates on recent work completed, local funding committed, details on breaking the project into smaller components, a local CSS process, and connections to the town's master plan.

Laconia - US 3 & NH 11B – The city has identified this intersection as a high priority intersection. The intersection will be addressed this year through the construction of a roundabout utilizing HSIP funds. Road and drainage issues on US Route 3 that remain to be addressed are outlined in a letter provided by the city.

Meredith/New Hampton - NH Route 104 – Both communities support this project which addresses access management issues, purchase of development rights, and safety improvements at several intersections.

Danbury – US Route 4 – A letter of project support from the community has not been provided to date.

Northfield – Exit 19 Completion - The town of Northfield continues to support the completion a full interchange for I-93 Exit 19 as indicated in a letter from the Board of Selectmen.

Andover - NH Route 11 Channel to Hoyt Road - The District Engineer indicates that \$330,000 has been expended on improvements. Currently there is no letter of support from town.

Moultonborough - NH Route 25 Moultonborough Neck Road to NH Route 109 South – Continued support indicated in a letter from the town.

Franklin –Connector Feasibility Study - The intent was to relieve congestion at Exit 20. Northfield’s priority remains in support of the completion of Exit 19. Franklin requested additional time to consider a letter of support.

Andover - US Route 4 from Salisbury town line - Andover provided a current letter of support.

Meredith - NH 106 from the Laconia town line to US Route 3 - A letter of support from the town expressing need to address significant erosion issues and lack of shoulders.

Bristol – Central Square Redesign - The Bristol Central Square redesign project does have support from the town. No additional information was provided, but the detailed information provided in 2009 is included in the packet. The town has secured funding for pedestrian improvements through the TE program. The focus of this TIP project is the realignment of NH Route 104.

There was discussion about what action to take regarding projects without letters of support and the Laconia US Route 3 – 11B project which has refocused on the original need for improvements on US 3.

A motion was made to move the three projects for which no letter of support was received to the bottom of the list projects.

M/S/Passed Taylor/Favorite

### **New Projects**

The town of Moultonborough submitted five intersection improvement projects along NH Route 25 that were identified in the 2008 Corridor Study. Preliminary cost estimates are included along with priority rankings. The town of Freedom submitted a request to consideration secondary state routes improvement in the village center. The town of Holderness submitted photos illustrating maintenance needs along NH Routes 113 and 175, and US Route 3. Issues include potholes, inadequate land widths, removal of barriers, and safety concerns.

### **Ten Year Plan Projects**

The city of Laconia continues to support the proposed improvements to the Laconia By-Pass in the area of NH Routes 106 and 107. The town of Ossipee has also submitted a letter of support for the projects along NH Route 16 already in the Ten Year Plan. There was discussion of the fate of projects in the Ten Year Plan, such as the US 3 – NH 25

improvement project in Meredith which has been reduced from \$14 million to \$5 million, which has local support even if reduced to an intersection improvement project. The question becomes where the remainder of the needed improvements stand in the queue of contingency projects.

There was discussion about how to rank the projects. Project readiness was noted as an important factor; several present also noted the value of discussing projects. A motion was made to use the regional criteria developed in 2009 for scoring all projects including the new projects, to develop a recommended regional priority list.

M/S/Passed Saunders/Ford

#### 4. **Regional Updates**

E. Abrams gave an update on a new model for quantifying mobile source emissions called the EPA MOVES model. NH DES has begun transitioning over to this new model. NH DES has been working with RPCs in the southern part of the state on the use of the model; other RPCs are welcome to attend the next meeting on March 10 in Manchester. EPA's ozone standards may be changing this summer which may lead to more non-attainment areas.

G. Schnieder described the Winnepesaukee Transit System (WTS) Demand Response program. It consists of ten bus stops; with a call the bus will go up to a quarter of a mile off of its regular route to pick people up. She pointed out that their Mobility Manager, Terri Paige spends up to 40 percent of her time on the route addressing the concerns of riders and promoting the system. They now have a Public Service Announcement on the radio about all parts of the transit program. They will be hiring a Travel Trainer to help more people access the services. BM CAP has submitted several grant proposals to NH DOT to help keep WTS operating; these grants do require matching funds. They are reconstituting an advisory committee for WTS, the first meeting will be in April. They are considering extending the WTS route to WalMart in Gilford, which may increase ridership.

The Mid-State Regional Coordinating Council (Region 3) has recently completed a regional transportation directory. A grant has been submitted to supplement this effort which will map areas of coverage and identify coverage gaps; matching funding is being provided by the United Way. 5310 Purchase of Service funds (approximately \$117,000) have been sought for purchasing rides through enhanced volunteer driver programs. This will augment existing volunteer driver programs.

#### 5. **Other Business**

Site visits for new TIP projects will be scheduled for March 30, 2011. The next regular TAC meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2011.

#### 6. **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

M/S/Passed Taylor/Favorite