



TAC Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2020 Zoom

Members Present

Malcolm “Tink” Taylor—Holderness, Chair
George Tuthill-Alexandria
Rick Ball—Belmont
Steve Favorite—Bristol
Megan Theriault—Gilford
Paul Hazelton-Hebron
Krista Larson—Laconia
John Edgar—Meredith
Robert Pollock—New Hampton
Joe Fagnant—Plymouth
Juliet Harvey-Bolia (Alt)—Plymouth
John Gotjen—Tamworth

Non-Voting Members

Bill Watson – NHDOT, Bureau of Planning and
Community Assistance
Lucy St. John—NHDOT, Bureau of Planning and
Community Assistance
Cindy Yanksi—Belknap Merrimack CAP

LRPC Staff

Susan Slack, Principal Planner
Jessica Bighinatti, Assistant Planner

1. Call to Order | Introductions:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM. Introductions of attendees and guest.

2. Approve Draft Minutes – June 3, 2020

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft minutes of the June 3, 2020 meeting.
M | S | P – Gotjen | Favorite | Passed. Abstained: George Tuthill, Krista Larson

3. Ten Year Transportation Plan 2023-2032

Understanding Project Criteria

- S. Slack opened discussion on the Ten Year Plan criteria that will be used to prioritize regional project proposals so that members could become comfortable with the definitions of the new criteria before considering the weighting of the criteria. The TYP criteria document was shared on the screen and had been distributed to each municipality and TAC member. S. Slack asked if anyone has any questions on the criteria.
- J. Gotjen said the criteria document is very detailed with many terms and acronyms. S. Favorite asked about Mobility Intervention and how it relates to evaluating a transportation project. There was discussion about how a project might reduce congestion or benefit the movement of vehicles.
- B. Watson explained that the criteria definitions were developed by transportation planners at each of the nine regional planning commissions and that NHDOT facilitated the planners’ meetings.

- S. Favorite asked about Facility Importance and what the facility is. S. Slack mentions that the highway, sidewalk, or rail line is the facility. S. Favorite commented on the lack of rail in the Lakes Region. S. Slack mentioned the Northcoast Railroad, which transports sand and gravel from Ossipee south to Boston and also transports propane. From Ossipee, there is a rail connection in Rollinsford-Somersworth, which then goes on to Boston. B. Watson commented that without rail those products would be hauled by trucks over the region's highways.
- E. Edgar asked who would submit a TYP rail project. S. Slack said a municipality could. She noted that Northcoast RR mentioned in a recent federal grant application that local businesses could potentially benefit from improving the track through Ossipee north of Ossipee Aggregates, which would require funding at a much greater level than available through the TYP allocation to the Lakes Region.
- S. Slack mentioned the Equity and Environmental Justice criteria, which is new for this TYP round. It evaluates how transportation projects affect underserved populations such as people of color, those older than 65, and those below 150% of the poverty threshold. Maps were shared depicting concentrations of underserved populations in Lakes Region communities. They are currently in draft form but will be posted on the LRPC website when completed.

Approval of Criteria Weighting

- S. Slack discussed the proposed criteria weighting and how the recommendation came about. In the past several TYP rounds the region's criteria weighting hasn't changed, but because there are new criteria this round, a new weighting scale was needed. The recommendations was based not only on weighting used in previous rounds, but also on the results of the survey that TAC members completed ranking the 15 criteria in order of importance. The results of the survey were discussed.
- L. St. John said the nine planning commissions are able to weight the criteria percentages based on each region's preferences and specific needs.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Recommended Criteria Weighting. A roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

M | S | P – Tuthill | Favorite | Passed.

Questions About Ten Year Plan Applications

J. Edgar and S. Slack what methodology is used to calculate annual inflation (2.8%) and indirect costs (10%) and those amounts are applied to the estimated cost of the proposed project.

B. Watson explained that 2.8% per year is added to the estimated cost of the project plus 10% of that total (or 1.1% per year for 10 years) for indirect costs. When proposed projects are submitted to NHDOT, the engineering review committee will look at the project scope and budget, and will provide feedback on the accuracy of the estimate. J. Edgar asked for clarification that when you apply the 2.8% and compounded it year, and then the indirect cost of 10% is applied to that

compounded number. G. Tuthill mentioned that 2.8% compounded over 10 years is 32% for inflation.

B. Watson said NHDOT is asking each region for a list of project priorities that totals the region's allocation. S. Slack noted that LRPC's allocation is \$5.1 million. She asked if the amount that projects exceeded the region's allocation in the last round had to be subtracted from this round's allocation. B. Watson said no, that LRPC should submit the top 2-3 projects even if they exceed the allocation.

4. Regional Updates

B. Watson was asked about traffic volume since the pandemic began. He said volume was down 50% at turnpike tolls in April and was still down 30% in August. Volume on secondary highway networks have not been analyzed. J. Gotjen and P. Hazelton each mentioned what seems like a noticeable increase in traffic volume on the more rural highways and local roads and vehicles parked at recreation sites and trailheads.

Next TAC Meeting

T. Taylor announced that the next TAC meeting will be on September 2, 2020. The meeting will most likely be held virtually (Zoom). S. Slack said members can informally discuss the TYP applications that have been received. Applications are due August 31.

S. Slack said the October 7 TAC meeting would be for formal project presentations. In the past TAC wanted applicants to make project presentations. J. Edgar asked if LRPC staff would make the presentations assisted by the applicant. S. Slack agreed. G. Tuthill said that taking the information home and filling in scoring sheets after having time to think about the projects would be a good way to understand the projects better. LRPC's list of priority projects has to be submitted to NHDOT by November 6.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm following a motion by Steve Favorite and unanimously approved.

M | S | P – Gotjen | Pollock | Passed