



Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2020 (Zoom)

Members Present

Malcolm (Tink) Taylor – Holderness, Chair
George Tuthill – Alexandria
Charlie Smith – Ashland
David Kerr – Barnstead
Rick Ball – Belmont
Bill Dowey (Alt) – Bristol
Steve Favorite – Bristol
Mark Hempton – Effingham
Meghan Theriault – Gilford
Paul Hazelton – Hebron
Krista Larsen – Laconia
John Edgar – Meredith
Bruce Woodruff – Moultonborough
Robert Pollock – New Hampton
Joe Fagnant – Plymouth
Juliet Harvey-Bolia (Alt) – Plymouth
John Gotjen – Tamworth

LRPC Staff

Jeffrey Hayes, Executive Director
Susan Slack, Principal Planner
Jessica Bighinatti, Assistant Planner
Chadsey Gray, Administrative Assistant

Guests

Katy Holmes- Sandwich
Katie Lamb, Transportation Planner,
North Country Council

Non-Voting Members

Samantha Fifield, NHDOT District 3
Bill Watson, NHDOT, Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance
Lucy St. John, NHDOT, Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance

1. Welcome and Introductions / Call to Order

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm and read the required Notice of Electronic Meeting pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-16. Attendees and guests introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the September 2, 2020 meeting minutes. S. Slack asked TAC members to consider an amendment to the draft minutes submitted by S. Fifield to clarify responses to questions asked by TAC members at the September meeting. S. Slack said the proposed amendment had been sent via email to TAC members. A motion to approve the amendment was made by Krista Larsen and seconded by John Gotjen. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with B. Dowey, M. Hempton, and M. Theriault abstaining. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by G. Tuthill and seconded by J. Gotjen. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with M. Theriault abstaining.

3. Ten Year Transportation Plan Project Proposals

The seven applications for Ten Year Transportation Plan projects were presented and discussed by LRPC staff and representatives from the four municipalities involved. S. Slack noted that each project had been reviewed at the September TAC meeting and that project applications are available on the LRPC website. The seven potential projects discussed include:

- **Plymouth** – Roundabout or other improvements at the intersection of NH 25 (Tenney Mountain Highway) and Smith Bridge Road.
- **Meredith** – Safety improvements at four intersections on NH 25, including at **Laker Lane** (limited shoulder widening on eastbound side to create bypass shoulder to avoid conflicts with left-turning vehicles); at **True Road** (limited shoulder widening on eastbound side to create bypass shoulder to avoid conflicts with left-turning vehicles; improve sight distance on north side of highway from current 50 to 200 ft.); at **Quarry Road** (limited shoulder widening on westbound side to create bypass shoulder to avoid conflicts with left-turning vehicles); at **Patrician Shores Circle** (limited widening on north side of highway to create bypass shoulder to avoid conflicts with left-turning vehicles, improve sight distance with tree removal and grading on north side of highway).
- **Laconia** – Roundabout at **NH 106 at Communications Drive**, including pedestrian and bicycle accessibility and streetscape features to support redevelopment of former Laconia State School property.
- **Laconia** – Crosswalk with pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) on **Endicott Street North (US 3) at 193 Warner Street** to provide ADA complaint pedestrian accessibility.
- **New Hampton** – Planning study of 2.4-mile segment of **NH 104** east of I-93 from Exit 23 to Meredith town line, including recommendations for intersections at Exit 23 northbound exit ramp; NH 132 North, Drake Road, Town House Road, and Sinclair Hill Road; speed limit adjustments; land uses and access management.

B. Watson said that nothing would happen on NH 104 for 10 years if an application for a planning study went forward, and that the TAC may want to think about doing this a different way. He said LRPC has funding to update the 2007 access management study, or could ask DOT to add NH 104 to the already long list of corridors to be studied. He said it sounded as if there was little access management for the corridor, which is not a state issue. He said speed limits are not lowered for economic development, but for safety. He said DOT recommends that towns, through their planning commissions, work with DOT to develop an access management MOU for corridors, but that hasn't happened with NH 104. He said he thinks the town would be frustrated if the application went forward.

- **Laconia** – Rehabilitation of 3,000 ft of Union Ave (NH 107) in downtown Urban Compact from Main Street (NH 106) to Gilford Avenue (NH 11A), including stormwater/drainage infrastructure, sub-base and pavement improvements, and pedestrian signage and streetscaping

- **Laconia** – Replace and widen red-listed **Weirs Blvd Bridge** and include a turning lane and sidewalk to support a new residential development.

4. Project Scoring

Project scoring sheets were reviewed. TAC members were asked to score each of the projects against the Ten Year Plan Criteria and return them to LRPC staff by 9 am Tuesday, October 13. TAC members will not score projects submitted by their municipality. Staff will tabulate the scores and determine the initial project priority list, which will be discussed with the LRPC Executive Board on October 14 for approval. The top three ranked projects will be submitted to NHDOT by the November 7 deadline. S. Slack said NHDOT will review project scope and cost estimates and provide comments to LRPC in February or March. Based on NHDOT comments, final project priorities will be reviewed by TAC in April.

5. Public Comment

B. Watson asked questions about LRPC's process for prioritizing potential TYP projects, about the role of the TAC and the Executive Board, and whether all proposed projects would be submitted to DOT for review, or whether projects would be submitted based on dollar value. J. Hayes said LRPC's allocation is \$5.1 million and that only the top projects would be submitted based on rough estimates. B. Watson said the estimated costs were incomplete and that ineligible costs, such as underground utilities, were included in several projects. He also said he was disappointed that a developer's contribution toward the Laconia bridge project would be used to help the city meet its 20% match instead of being applied to the total cost of the project. He said the rough estimates were terribly underestimated and that the TAC and LRPC would be disappointed when it learns they can't afford their priorities for the region. He said that compared to other regional planning commissions, LRPC's TYP project process was crude and oversimplified, and that he wanted to provide a reality check.

S. Slack and K. Larsen said they would review projects to make sure ineligible utility costs are not included in cost estimates.

B. Watson asked if the TAC was interested in confirming the Executive Board's project priorities. J. Hayes and S. Slack explained LRPC's bylaws, that TAC's project scoring will determine priorities, and that the Executive Board will be asked to approve the priorities before they are submitted to DOT by November 7. They also explained that after receiving review comments back from DOT, TAC and then the Executive Board will be able to adjust priorities if necessary.

B. Watson said other RPCs don't seek board approval of project priorities before submitting the preliminary list to DOT. He said all RPCs review projects with their TACs; some use consulting engineers to recommend project scopes, estimates, and priorities; and others have staff make initial recommendations. He said LRPC was following a different process and that there was nothing wrong with it. J. Hayes commented that LRPC is the least financially supported of the nine regional planning commissions and doesn't have an on-call engineer.

B. Watson said he was surprised that the TAC didn't want final review or awareness of the projects before they are submitted to DOT in November. S. Slack said that TAC will be aware of project scores and priorities before they are submitted to DOT. J. Hayes added that DOT's comments about the projects submitted will be shared with TAC and the Executive Board and that they can adjust priorities if necessary. He added that communities spend a lot of time on project proposals,

and that it was hard to maintain excitement and passion when a majority of the projects won't get funded.

S. Slack announced that the next TAC meeting will be December 2, 2020 at 2 pm.

6. Adjournment

T. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 4:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chadsey Gray
Administrative Assistant
Susan Slack
Principal Planner