

Minutes of March 7, 2019
LRPC Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting
Meredith Community Center
Meredith, NH

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

George Tuthill, Alexandria
David Kerr, Barnstead
Steve Favorite, Bristol
Wes Anderson, Laconia
Sheldon Morgan, Gilford - Chair
Dari Sassan, Tilton
John Edgar, Meredith
Robert Ward, Moultonborough
Joe Fagnant, Plymouth
John Gotjen, Tamworth
David Ford, Wolfeboro
Lloyd Wood, Tuftonboro
Mark Howard, Tuftonboro

OTHERS PRESENT

Nancy Spaulding, NH DOT, District 3
Lucy St. John, NH DOT Planning & Community Assistance
Phil Goff, Alta Planning + Design, Inc.
Bob Champlain, WOW Trail
Patrick Marcoux, Laconia
Susan Slack, LRPC
David Jeffers, LRPC
Jeff Hayes, LRPC
Laura Lynch, LRPC
Erica Wygonik, RSG
Jan Collin, Newfound Pathways
Donna Hepp, Belknap County Conservation District

1. Call to Order, Introductions, and approval of Draft Minutes

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 2:08 P.M.
A motion was made to accept the minutes of the December 5, 2018 meeting as amended.
M/S/Passed Ward/Favorite

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2019 meeting as written.
M/S/Passed Ward/Tuthill
Abstained - Kerr

2. Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan

P. Goff presented information on the update of the state's Bicycle and Transportation Plan, including the scope of work and public engagement. He explained outreach efforts. A website has been established: www.nhbikeplan.com for resource materials and to accept input through an online input map and a survey. All are encouraged to visit the site and provide feedback, including areas of interest and areas of concern. They are providing materials to the RPCs to hold supplementary public meetings.

This statewide plan will focus on state roads, not trails, rails, or local roads. They will conduct a gap analysis of segments between communities and walk/bike destinations. There will be an analysis of policies and they will conduct a Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) analysis.

This will lead to a list of projects and recommendations for each RPC area. The prioritization factors will include crash data. There will be an Economic Impact analysis, including businesses, tourism, camps, property values. A draft report will be developed and made available for comment. The process will be completed by the end of 2019.

Questions and Concerns from the TAC and others included:

- Addressing different types of cyclists and terrain.
- Changing demographics
- Prioritization – include potential funding sources, already identified projects, and areas where road work is already planned. Note: LRPC has already mapped areas with high LTS and where DOT paving is scheduled.
- Input from NH bicycle advocates
- Specific roadway concerns – NH Route 171
- Public engagement concerns – one public meeting for the northern 2/3 of state is in Lincoln

Gap analysis maps were shown and discussed.

Concern:

- Designated Bike Routes omitted Newfound (#403) but does include Ossipee Loop
- South Main Street (Nh 28) Wolfeboro
- Multi-use trails
- What are we trying to connect? Linking communities and destinations.
- Key Destinations layer
- Commuting patterns (origin-destinations)

Seeking input on presence of sidewalks as well as bicycling destinations.

A copy of the Vision, Goals, and Objectives section of the Draft Plan had been distributed to TAC members. If members have comments on this, they should submit them to S. Slack, to be forwarded on to P. Goff.

3. WOW Trail Right of Way Study

S. Slack explained that three items had been provided pertaining to this topic.

Bob Champlin described the WOW Trail projects over the past 35 years. There are some gaps in the overall trail, which will stretch from Franklin to Weirs Beach. The current focus is on Phase III, the 4.5-mile segment from Lakeport to the Weirs.

The WOW Trail Committee has commissioned a study exploring several options for completing this segment of the trail and the economic impacts of these options. Three options will be discussed in the report: completing this trail segment alongside the tracks, in place of the tracks, and an on-road alternative route. The state-owned railroad corridor is leased on a 10-year basis, and is currently used by the Plymouth and Lincoln Railroad for seasonal scenic excursions. There was discussion of the routes and stops of the Scenic Rail. NH DOT is not supportive of the concept of removing track on an active rail corridor.

B. Champlin said the WOW Trail is seeking LRPC's support for the study, not for a particular outcome or result of the study.

A motion was made for the TAC to recommend to the LRPC Executive Board to support this study.

M/S/ Tabled Ward/Gotjen

Motion to table the vote until the April 3, 2019 TAC meeting so that TAC members can receive guidance from their governing boards.

M/S/Approved Wood/Favorite

4. Statewide Freight Plan

S. Slack gave a brief report on the State Freight Plan. Information on this is available at the NH DOT and LRPC websites.

5. Regional Updates

S. Slack gave an update on recent activity regarding Scenic Byways in the area:

- Sandwich Business Group is working on the possibility of a new Scenic Byway between Chocorua Village and Holderness along Route 113 and Route 113A.
- Branch River Valley Scenic Byway (Strafford RPC) is considering a name change, route expansion, and linking to Lakes Region Tour in Wolfeboro
- Lakes Region Tour Scenic Byway Committee is working on reactivating the subcommittee.

6. Other Business

Next meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2019 1:30 pm, location TBD. The agenda will include Prioritization of Ten Year Plan project proposals.

5. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

M/S/Passed Favorite/Ward