

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION
Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

103 Main Street, Suite 3
Meredith, NH 03253
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TAC Meeting
Minutes of June 3, 2020
Zoom

Members Present

Malcolm “Tink” Taylor – Holderness, Chair
David Kerr – Barnstead
Rick Ball – Belmont
Dari Sassan (Alt) - Belmont
Bill Dowey (Alt) – Bristol
Meghan Theriault – Gilford
Sheldon Morgan (Alt) – Gilford
John Edgar – Meredith
Robert Pollock – New Hampton
Joe Fagnant – Plymouth
Juliet Harvey-Bolia (Alt) – Plymouth
John Gotjen – Tamworth

Non-Voting Members

Lucy St. John – NHDOT, Bureau of Planning and
Community Assistance
Samantha Fifield – NHDOT, District 3
Bill Watson – NHDOT, Bureau of Planning and
Community Assistance
Cindy Yanski – Belknap Merrimack CAP

LRPC Staff

Susan Slack – Principal Planner
Jessica Bighinatti – Assistant Planner
David Jeffers – Regional Planner
Jeffrey Hayes – Executive Director
Colby St. Pierre – Intern

1. Call to Order | Introductions:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM. Roll call for attendance was taken. A quorum was declared present.

S. Slack read the general remote meeting rules citing the Governor’s Executive Order #12.

2. Approve Draft Minutes – March 4, 2020

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft minutes of March 4, 2020 with a correction in the spelling of Cindy Yanksi’s.

M | S | P — Gotjen | All approved | Passed. Abstained: David Kerr and Bill Dowey

3. Covid-19 Unemployment Statistics in the Lakes region

D. Jeffers showed a map depicting how Covid-19 affected unemployment claims in the Lakes Region between March 15 and April 11. Andover showed around 9% unemployment claims and some communities showed upwards of 22%. The communities that were hit the hardest were Franklin, Tilton, Gilmanton, Laconia and Ossipee. New Hampshire’s rate for unemployment was 13.5% and the Lakes

Region averaged 18%. D. Jeffers showed a map with unemployment claims from March 15 to May 16. All Lakes Region communities had at least 12.3% unemployment rates, with the highest at 32%. Hardest hit were Franklin, Tilton, Belmont, Gilmanton, Laconia, and Ossipee, all with unemployment rates between 27.9% and 32.1%. New Hampshire's statewide rate was 18.5%. While in the Lakes Region the average rate was 24.5%. Traffic counts from the permanent counters in the Lakes Region comparing traffic volume from May 2019 to May 2020 were discussed. U.S 3 in Gilford showed the least decrease in volume at 13%, and NH 25 showed the highest decrease at 49%.

J. Gotjen commented that roads in Tamworth from a visual standpoint have returned to fairly normal traffic volumes.

S. Slack said both maps are on LRPC website.

J. Edgar asked if unemployment rates are comparable to other regions in New Hampshire that are seasonally influenced, such as the seacoast and ski country. A further look into the comparison will be done at a later date.

4. Ten Year Plan 2023-2033

S. Slack reviewed the likely schedule for developing and prioritizing potential Ten Year Plan projects for rest of the year, including a July 1 letter of intent from municipalities interested in proposing a project, a probable TAC scoring meeting in November, and a December 1 deadline to submit project priorities to NHDOT. J. Hayes asked if they are hard deadlines. S. Slack said the December 1 NHDOT deadline is definite, but the others are tentative and could be adjusted.

S. Slack explained that the criteria for evaluating project proposals is being updated by NHDOT and the nine regional planning commissions, and will include expanded definitions and a list of data resources. Criteria carried over from previous years are mobility, network significance, safety, state of repair, support for the project, and resiliency (resiliency is now called natural hazard resiliency with sub-criteria related to mitigation and adaptation). The criterion that was eliminated is alternative mode, however that will be factored into other criteria, such as safety and mobility. The two new criteria are economic development and equality, environmental justice, and accessibility.

J. Hayes asked if eliminating alternative mode as a criterion will affect consideration of bike-ped projects. S. Slack said alternative mode factors are included in several criteria, and each RPC will be able to weight the importance of each criterion as it sees fit.

5. Update on Regional Transportation Plan

TAC members were updated on progress toward revising the Regional Transportation Plan. J. Bighinatti explained that instead of developing separate analyses of 19 separate highway corridors, they have been reorganized around the region's seven arterials and each will be analyzed as a corridor network, with maps, tables, and narratives. The seven arterials are: U.S 3, NH 16, NH 28,

NH 106, NH 11, NH 25 East, and NH 104. For example, the U.S 3 corridor network includes I-93, NH 25 West, NH 175, NH 175A, NH 132, NH 127, and NH 3A.

Determining which communities should be included with which corridor network is still in process, and will be discussed with TAC members. No information will be lost by reorganizing along corridor networks and the sections will be longer and more detailed. The maps that are included in the narratives include AADT counts, TYP project locations, fatality locations, bikeability stress, labor markets, and red listed bridges. J. Gotjen asked how stress level was determined for the bikeability maps D. Jeffers said the level of stress was determined by traffic volumes, shoulder width, and road conditions.

Corridor updates will include data on labor market information, populations trends, special population-age groups, such as minorities and low income, housing data, rail, public transportation, air, jobs and unemployment, commuting to work, seasonal traffic counts, and Ten Year Plan project information.

Cindy Yanski said she can help with public transportation information, including volunteer driver programs and senior transportation.

J. Edgar suggested the seven corridor networks shouldn't be viewed in isolation; they are interconnected. He suggested including maps that depict corridor connectivity within New Hampshire's planning regions and outside New Hampshire in the New England.

6. Regional Updates

S. Slack updated TAC members on the status of the NH 11 Alton-Gilford Planning Study, which is a Ten Year Plan project. NHDOT is working to complete a scope of work with an engineering consultant. It is expected the project will include public participation, analysis of current conditions, future conditions, and development of improvement concepts and recommendations. The study area is the segment of NH 11 just east of Minge Cove Road to just east of Ellacoya State Park.

7. Other Business

No other business. Next meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2020.

8. Meeting Adjourn

M | S | P — Sheldon Morgan | John Edgar | Passed