

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION  
Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

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## TAC Meeting

### Minutes of October 2, 2019

177 Middle Road (NH 109A) Tuftonboro, NH – Tuftonboro Fire and Rescue Building

#### Members Present

Sheldon Morgan, Chair—Gilford  
Malcolm (Tink) Taylor, Vice-Chair—Holderness  
George Tuthill—Alexandria  
David Kerr—Barnstead  
Dari Sassan—Belmont  
Steve Favorite—Bristol  
Mark Hempton—Effingham  
Krista Larson—Laconia  
Bruce Woodruff—Moultonborough  
Robert Pollock—New Hampton  
John Gotjen—Tamworth  
Lloyd Wood—Tuftonboro

#### Non-Voting Members

William Rose, NHDOT, Bureau of Planning and  
Community Assistance  
Cindy Yanski, Belknap Merrimack CAP and Mid  
State RCC

#### LRPC Staff

Susan Slack, Principal Planner  
Dave Jeffers, Regional Planner  
Jessica Bighinatti, Assistant Planner

#### Call to Order | Introductions

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM. Members and guests were introduced.

#### Approve Draft Minutes- September 4, 2019

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft minutes of September 4, 2019

M | S | P – Gotjen | Kerr | Passed. Abstained: Krista Larson, Bruce Woodruff, and  
Steve Favorite

#### Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant proposals update

- S. Slack said NHDOT no longer required the regional planning commissions to review and prioritize CMAQ project proposals, as was scheduled for this meeting, because DOT believes it has funding available for all proposed projects after it determines whether they meet eligibility and air quality benefit requirements. In the Lakes Region, the Town of Belmont proposed an intersection improvement project at Main Street and NH 140, and NHDOT proposed flashing yellow left arrow signal conversions, several of which could be in the Lakes Region.
- D. Sassan, Belmont Town Planner, described the town's proposal to reduce wait times and idling at the NH 140 intersection with the goal of reducing emissions. He said the project will create smoother traffic flow on NH 140 by enabling through traffic to continue without stopping at the intersection.

S. Slack said NHDOT had proposed more than 40 potential flashing yellow left arrow signal projects, 7 of which are in the Lakes Region. DOT will choose 15 intersections throughout the state. W. Rose (NHDOT) also spoke on the state process for choosing intersections and said the flashing yellow left arrow signal reduces vehicle idling and improves traffic flow.

### **Coordinated Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan – Mid-State Regional Coordinating Council (Region 3)**

David Jeffers, Regional Planner, LRPC

Recommendation to LRPC Executive Board on adoption of plan (LRPC's Belknap and Merrimack County municipalities)

D. Jeffers discussed updates proposed for the Mid-State Regional Coordinating Council's Coordinated Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan, focusing on regional transportation services, and asked the TAC to vote on whether to recommend the updated plan to LRPC's Executive Board for adoption. Copies of the updated plan were provided to TAC members prior to the meeting.

D. Jeffers explains that New Hampshire has nine coordinating councils. Mid-State is in Region 3 and includes the cities of Concord, Franklin and Laconia. It receives federal 5310 funds to support transportation options for seniors and those with disabilities. Mid-State RCC publishes a regional ride resource directory. Rides are provided by volunteer drivers, as well as contract vendors. The volunteer drivers program fills the transportation gaps. Some programs require matching funds. The directory guide is available online at:

[http://midstatercc.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/06/midstate\\_rcc\\_rideresource\\_directory\\_may2017-website-6-22-17.pdf](http://midstatercc.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/06/midstate_rcc_rideresource_directory_may2017-website-6-22-17.pdf) and paper copies have been distributed. There was some discussion about how best to provide information to those who need the ride service.

D. Jeffers said the updated Plan identifies changes in regional demographics, funding, and transportation needs. Providers, organizations that work with seniors and the disabled, and seniors and others who use the ride service were surveyed. Most ride services are concentrated in the Concord area. The volunteer driver program provides around 5,000 rides per year.

Goals of the Mid-State RCC Plan include coordinating transportation efforts, supporting the mobility manager position, distributing funds, supporting the volunteer driver program and the taxi voucher program, supporting creation of a region-wide transportation brokerage, improving information about Transit Dependent Populations, and supporting enhanced intra-state services.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend the updated Mid-State RCC plan to LRPC's Executive Board for adoption.

M | S | P – Taylor | Larson | Passed unanimously

## **Non-Federal Aid Eligible Highways**

Route 171 Tuftonboro-Letter to executive Councilor

TAC members discussed Tuftonboro's ongoing concerns about the intersection of NH 171 and Durgin and Ledge Hill Roads and how best to improve safety. S. Slack noted that NH 171 is one of many non-federal aid highways in the Lakes Region, and that improvements must rely on limited state highway funding. Tuftonboro asked that LRPC support sending a letter to Executive Councilor Cryans seeking support. S. Slack suggested that data needs to be gathered including history of fatal and serious crashes, speed, traffic volume, and turning movements.

L. Wood said Tuftonboro had been raising concerns about the intersection for the past five years. Ledge Hill is the second busiest road in Tuftonboro. There are problems at the base of the intersection during the winter due to frost heaves, which causes problems for some trucks. Foliage is overgrown at the intersection, and visibility is limited. L. Wood said there has been communication with NHDOT over the past few years. He said possible solutions and temporary measures could include horizontal rumble strips similar to the NH 171-NH 28 intersection a few miles away; a 3-way stop; or traffic signals at the intersection.

W. Rose said data about the intersection should be gathered. He said NHDOT suggested actions the town could take on Durgin and Ledge Hill roads in a March 2018 letter to the Tuftonboro Selectmen, and the District 3 Engineer offered to meet with the Selectmen, but DOT didn't receive a response.

T. Taylor said vegetation is becoming a more of a concern on state highways due to cutbacks in routine maintenance because of the lack of funding availability.

S. Slack offered to redraft the letter and start the process of data collection at the intersection.

## **Regional Updates**

### **Ten Year Plan – Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) Public Meetings**

S. Slack said the first of two GACIT public meetings in the Lakes Region was held in Laconia in September where members of the public discussed safety issues, recent crashes on NH 106, and the need to complete widening and improvements north of the NH Motor Speedway. A GACIT meeting was held earlier in Conway where Tuftonboro selectmen raised questions about state bridge aid. The second GACIT meeting in the Lakes Region will be on October 16 in Franklin.

W. Rose said NHDOT appreciates the turnout of GACIT, which focus on how highway funds will be allocated. He urged TAC members interested in how much funding is available to also participate in the budget process as it proceeds through the NH legislature.

November 12 is the deadline for public comments on the proposed Ten Year Transportation Plan.

Comments can be made at: <https://nhdotplanningahead2030.metroquest.com/>

**Update on Statewide Pedestrian-Bicycle Transportation Plan <https://nhpedbikeplan.com/>**

S. Slack said there was great turnout at the public comment meeting in Gilford on September 25, where 35 people marked up maps and commented on gaps in bike-ped facilities. J. Gotjen said he was discouraged with the meeting because of the lack of funding for bike-ped projects. There needs to be a focus on cyclists and pedestrians when transportation projects are developed. S. Slack said LRPC is interested in looking at the plan's recommendation and encouraging bike-ped amenities to be included during regular highway paving projects.

**Highway Block Grant Aid Distribution for Class IV and V municipal roads**

S. Slack said information was available on highway block grant distributions to towns and cities. W. Rose said NHDOT sent letters to each municipality.

**Other Business 4:00PM**

S. Morgan announced that the next TAC meeting will be November 6, 2019 and asks members if anyone would like to volunteer to host the next meeting.

David Kerr said NHDOT installed the new version of the center line rumble strip during its NH 28 project. He said it is very quiet compared to the original version.

Cindy Yanski from Mid-State RCC announced that applications are due October 29 for ride programs for seniors and the disabled. Local groups can apply. Also, in November Commute Smart will begin a new two-week challenge and she invited municipalities to participate.

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:11 pm following a motion by George Tuthill and unanimously approved.

M | S | P – Tuthill | Favorite | Passed