

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION
Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

103 Main Street, Suite 3
Meredith, NH 03253
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TAC Meeting
Minutes of March 7, 2018
Public Safety Building, New Hampton, NH

Members Present

Sheldon Morgan, Chair – Gilford
George Tuthill—Alexandria
David Toth – Ashland
Craig Moore—Ashland
Steve Favorite – Bristol
Bill Dowey—Bristol (alternate)
Paul Hazelton – Hebron
Malcolm “Tink” Taylor – Holderness
Robert Ward – Moultonborough
Robert Pollock – New Hampton
John Gotjen – Tamworth

Non-Voting Members

Nancy Spaulding, NHDOT District 3

Guests/Others

David Gray, NHDOT Winter Program Specialist
Tara Merrifield, NHDAS Fleet Administrator
Krista Larsen, Assistant Director, Laconia DPW

LRPC Staff

Susan Slack, Principal Planner
Jeff Hayes, Executive Director
Tracey Ciriello, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order | Minutes

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM, noting a delay due to technology issues, and made introductions. Motion to approve the draft minutes of January 3, 2018 was approved; there was no February meeting due to snow.

M | S | P Taylor | Favorite | Passed
Abstained Tuthill, Gotjen

2. DOT Winter Maintenance Presentation: Use of GPS Technology on Highway Trucks

Winter Program Specialist David Gray of the NH Department of Transportation gave a presentation on GPS fleet management software, currently installed on 89 NHDOT vehicles. The GPS-based software can be used to not only locate and monitor all vehicles, but can monitor and track anything coming out of a spreader—salt, sand, etc. The system can be installed on any vehicle and allows real-time tracking, immediate feedback to drivers, and data storage when driving through areas that prevent connectivity, such as mountains. NHDOT chose not to install cameras due to the myriad complicated issues they raise. He answered questions and concluded by citing one of the resources used—Clear Roads (clearroads.org), a national research consortium on winter road maintenance—and expressed the desire to help municipalities since there are so many things DOT can do at the state level that communities can’t do at the municipal level.

3. Regional Updates

Route 113/West Rattlesnake Trailhead Parking—

- NHDOT verbal response—will not provide requested signage for No Parking
- Rt. 113 described as: a state problem, a state road, a state-promoted attraction

- Reduced speed zone discussed due to being the only straight, solid-yellow-line stretch of road
- Need long-term plan. Nancy Spaulding suggested an option: ask state legislators to make a no-trucking zone
- The TAC is now requesting a traffic data counter to record vehicle types, speed, etc. Susan Slack will speak with the Town of Holderness about a traffic count.

Transportation Funding Legislation—

- The state aid highway fund has been eliminated—2.5 million dollars
- Was small program but important way to leverage resources for our area
- Example of impact: Tilton has a road project stopped in planning stages and is now trying to get the state Ten Year Plan amended by asking their state senator for support
- Private vs. public funding discussed, with examples cited.

Long-term Funding of Transportation Improvements (from Agenda item 4) —

- Open to ideas about long-term funding
- Jeff Hayes described two ideas on the table in the legislature: registration fee and state highway aid program
- We could have an impact state-wide if we get support from our local legislators; more impact if begin with our selectboards
- Whether a tax is warranted was debated/compared with recognizing the inability to live with our roads as they are now, let alone in the future
- We need to be part of the solution
- General consensus: too many roads in NH and more than NH can handle. Discussed at length: moisture/water from underneath, resurfacing vs. new road, quality and type of materials and binders, and red-list bridges
- Look beyond our borders to see what other states are handling high volume of roads; consider a systems approach so can look top to bottom/whole picture then analyze the statistics—can any be eliminated or re-designated/downsized? Which have been inherited by municipalities? What about county government? In the end a road has to be maintained no matter who is responsible, so funding is still main issue
- Susan Slack will draft a preliminary fact sheet for TAC representatives to begin reviewing/building upon to aid them in communicating with their town selectboards towards the end of spring; should include what the true impact of underfunding road care does to a municipality.
- Peer recommendation: UNH T2 (Technology Transfer Center) class on pavement 101; will send email and post info on website.

4. Other Business

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 4, 2018, in Meredith by default. If anyone would like to host the meeting, please let Susan know. The meeting will include a presentation from Lucy St. John on the state freight plan and a NHDES presentation on electronic charging stations.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:17.

M | S | P

Favorite | Ward | Passed

Respectfully submitted,

Tracey Ciriello, LRPC Executive Assistant