



## TAC Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2020

103 Main Street, Meredith, NH – First Floor Conference Room

### Members Present

Malcolm “Tink” Taylor—Holderness, Chair  
Lloyd Wood—Tuftonboro, Vice-Chair  
George Tuthill—Alexandria  
Charles Smith-Ashland  
David Kerr—Barnstead  
Dari Sassan—Belmont  
Steve Favorite—Bristol  
Megan Theriault—Gilford  
Sheldon Morgan (alt)—Gilford  
Paul Hazelton—Hebron  
Krista Larson—Laconia  
John Edgar—Meredith  
Bruce Woodruff—Moultonborough  
Robert Pollock—New Hampton  
John Gotjen—Tamworth

### Non-Voting Members

Samantha Fifield—NHDOT District 3  
Lucy St. John—NHDOT, Bureau of Planning and  
Community Assistance  
Cindy Yanksi—Belknap Merrimack CAP

### Others

Brian Murphy—Plymouth  
Juliet Harvey-Bolia—Plymouth  
Doug Grant – Transport Central

### LRPC Staff

Jeffrey Hayes, Executive Director  
Susan Slack, Principal Planner  
Dave Jeffers, Regional Planner  
Jessica Bighinatti, Assistant Planner

### 1. Call to Order | Introductions: 2:00PM

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Introductions of attendees and guest.

### 2. Approve Draft Minutes- November 6, 2019:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft minutes of November 6, 2019

M | S | P – Favorite | Tuthill | Passed. Abstained: Hazelton, Morgan, Woodruff

### 3. LRPC Regional Transportation Plan Update:

S. Slack discussed the update of the 2015 Regional Transportation Plan, and organizing the new plan around each of the region’s state highway corridors. TAC members discussed the various corridors, which municipalities should be grouped within each corridor, and the data that will be included within the discussion of each corridor, including demographics, pavement conditions, crash locations, traffic counts, freight issues, other modes of transportation including air, rail and bike-ped. There was also discussion of LRPC’s unique Lifeline Corridor designation – highways with the highest volumes of traffic in the region, including freight traffic. J. Edgar said that Lifeline Corridors

connect the Lakes Region with other regions of the state and beyond. It was noted that there is no Lifeline Corridor designation in Plymouth because it was not a member of LRPC until recently.

J. Edgar talks about developing our own criteria for TYP project scoring. We developed this scoring to help pick projects for TYP, TAC can potentially edit and update our criteria and add additional criteria to the scoring. Possibly criteria on if they had a major impact on the lake's region. J. Hayes wondered if we need a different way of classifying these highways other than using the term Lifeline Corridor. J. Edgar noted other FHWA terms for classifying highway corridors.

TAC members discussed whether I-93 should be included as a distinct corridor for discussion in the Regional Plan. J. Edgar mentioned the impact on the Lakes Region of TYP projects for widening I-93 through Concord. He suggested that I-93 needs to be mentioned because of its significance to the region.

P. Hazelton discussed NH 25 as the major east-west corridor in the region, and J. Edgar mentioned the importance of distinguishing between federal aid eligible (FAE) and non-FAE.

L, St. John spoke suggested looking at the issues and opportunities for each corridor, and regional vs state problems and opportunities.

D. Jeffers discussed traffic counts, pointing out that LRPC conducts traffic counts on municipal and state roads. LRPC does over 450 counts around the region, about one-third of which are located on state highways.

S. Slack will provide today's slide presentation to TAC members and said she welcomed feedback on identifying the various corridors or corridor segments.

#### **4. Ten Year Plan 2021-2030**

S. Slack discussed the fall GACIT hearings, which LRPC participated in, and the Governor's TYP recommendations to the state legislature. The three TYP projects proposed by LRPC were included in the Governor's recommendation. She also discussed the Governor's recommendation to advance some municipal bridge projects (Andover), one of Bristol's TYP projects, and Franklin's TAP project. In addition to Andover, other municipal bridge projects proposed for the 2021-2030 TYP are in Hill, Freedom, Gilmanton, and Laconia.

B. Murphy asked how TYP projects get advanced. He said Plymouth's Highland Street project is scheduled for 2027 and the town has tried to have it advanced. J. Hayes said that sometimes projects get moved depending on funding availability.

D. Kerr noted that TAC prioritized the Gilmanton NH 140/NH107 TYP project based on its description as a roundabout, but that it is not described that way in the 2021-2030 TYP; it is described as a pedestrian islands, sidewalks and curb improvement. J. Hayes noted that the cost

listed in the TYP is still based on potential roundabout, but that the feasibility of a roundabout may be in question due to the space available. As projects advance towards the preliminary engineering phase, there will be discussions with the town and LRPC about the best way to solve the intersection's problems with the funds available.

J. Edgar talks on other changes to the scope, as DOT looks at sites and makes recommendations, sometimes there is misconnections between GACIT and the governor. These are proposals, no engineering, once the engineering begins, the feasibility of projects can change.

S. Morgan asked about the Alton-Gilford NH 11 Planning Study. The study area covers Minge Cove Road to Ellacoya State Park. The project is in the beginning stages, and there should be information soon on public involvement meetings. It was noted that ROW is a problem on this corridor and that in the past TAC members discussed a bike path concept similar to the one at Franconia Notch.

### **Planning for Ten Year Plan 2023-2032**

S. Slack encouraged TAC members to work with their municipalities to start thinking about project proposals for the next TYP cycle. If the schedule remains that same as in the previous cycle, project submittals will be due in September with TAC reviewing and prioritizing proposals in November. S. Slack encouraged TAC members to contact LRPC for assistance on data collection to support proposals. She encouraged TAC member to review projects that were not chosen in the previous TYP round for possible consideration.

- **New Hampton – NH 104 corridor**

R. Pollock spoke about a section of NH 104 being a possible TYP project. New Hampton is looking to get traffic counts between the I-93 exit east to the Meredith town line. He said in the past 5 years there have been 158 accidents and one fatality, with 33 transportable injuries on this stretch of road. A Road Safety Audit may be an option due to the fatality. A corridor or planning study could identify specific improvement projects. Freight traffic is busy through the intersection especially at the Irving Gas Station which can sometimes lead to vehicles sticking out on NH 104.

- **Plymouth – Tenney Mountain Highway (NH 25)/Smith Bridge Road Intersection**

B. Murphy discussed the issues related to this section of highway and said the town would like to propose a roundabout project at the Smith Bridge Road intersection. He said the project has the potential to be regionally significant because of the location.

D. Jeffers demonstrated how traffic count information can be obtained from the LRPC website and NHDOT websites. Average annual daily traffic (AADT) counts and trend data is available. Some counts are permanent, some are seasonal, on a 3-year rotation. Turning movement counts are available too. Communities can contact LRPC for assistance.

K. Larson asked about TYP criteria and what roads are eligible. S. Slack and J. Hayes talks about how criteria can change over time and scoring can change per voting period and we can create different

criteria and weight criteria differently. J. Hayes discussed the advantages of sticking with criteria used by NHDOT and the other RPCs so that projects are evaluated the same way.

## **5. Regional Updates**

### **New Hampshire Northcoast Railroad (Ossipee to Rollinsford)- Letter of support for track improvements grant application- Consolidated Rail Improvement and Safety Infrastructure (CRISI) Program, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)**

S. Slack said Northcoast RR had requested that LRPC provide a letter of support for its grant application for track improvements sand and gravel from Ossipee to Rollinsford. The letter was due in mid-January, before the request could be discussed at a TAC meeting. With Chairman Taylor's agreement, LRPC provided the letter. Northcoast's information packet was discussed. S. Slack noted that in addition to sand and gravel, propane is also being transported.

T. Taylor said TAC should spend some time looking at rail in the region and consider inviting a speaker to discuss rail issues. J. Edgar mentioned the Concord to Lincoln line and that there has been no talk of reestablishing rail freight transportation.

### **Proposed Legislation to establish road usage fee to be paid at time of vehicle registration**

**HB 1649 – based on vehicle miles per gallon**

**HB 1650 – based on gross vehicle weight and vehicle miles traveled**

S. Slack updated TAC on the status of these bills, noting that HB 1649 was recommended Ought to Pass by the committee, and that HB 1650 is being held in committee.

### **National Scenic Byway Program – accepting nominations; application deadline May 15, 2020.**

S. Slack said nominations will be considered for National Scenic Byway designation. A FHWA webinar is available on the nomination process. L. St John said information is available on the NHDOT website and that a letter of interest is required to be sent to NHDOT by Feb. 17. Funding is not available.

## **6. Other Business**

T. Taylor announced that the next TAC meeting will be March 4, 2020. S. Slack asked if a member municipality would consider hosting the next meeting because the LRPC conference room won't be available.

E. Edgar asked about the timeframe for updating the Regional Transportation Plan. J. Hayes said it is included in our two-year UPWP, so we have the next 18 months to update the plan. Future TAC meetings will include additional discussion of the plan for updates and feedback.

D. Grant of Transport Central said the organization one of the largest ride providers in the area and is headquartered in Plymouth. He said the 2018 Plymouth Master Plan recommends an in-house

transportation system much like the UNH bus system and that Transport Central could be a possible option for this. D. Jeffers said LRPC is working in partnership with North Country Council on updates to Regional Coordinated transit plans.

L. Wood welcomed back S. Morgan back to the TAC as the alternate from Gilford.

## **7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm following a motion by G. Tuthill and unanimously approved.

M | S | P – Favorite | Morgan | Passed