

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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TAC Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, February 4, 2015 1st Floor Conference Room, 103 Main St., Meredith, NH

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Sheldon Morgan (Chair), Gilford
David Ford, Wolfeboro
David Kerr, Barnstead
Bruce Woodruff, Moultonborough
John Gotjen, Tamworth
Rick Ball, Belmont
Steve Favorite, Bristol
Tink Taylor, Holderness
Eli Badger, Ashland

OTHERS PRESENT

Warren Hutchins, LRPC / Laconia
Michael Izard, LRPC Principal Planner
Daniel Callister, LRPC Regional Planner
Carol Macuch, NHDOT
Glenn Davison, NHDOT
Mark Howard, Tuftonboro
Bill Rollins, NHDOT District 3

Call to Order and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 2:05 by Chairman Morgan. Motion to approve Minutes of December 3 as written.
M/S/Passed Favorite/Ball

New TAC members have been appointed, Dan Peaslee representing Sandwich, as well as Eli Badger representing Ashland with David Toth as Alternate. No public comment.

Regional Updates

Transportation Alternatives – update: Final statewide Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project ranking and awarding of funding has been announced and signed by NHDOT Acting Commissioner. The TAP project in Laconia ranked as the number four priority statewide (41 projects in total) and is the TAP project among six from the Lakes Region to receive funding. Overall, the number one projects from most RPCs were funded. The project from Ashland (state priority #19) was the second highest priority project from the Lakes Region according to the statewide committee. The state ranking of other Lakes Region projects included: Wolfeboro I (#26), Bristol I (#27), Wolfeboro II (#31), Bristol II (#41).

NH Route 3/25: Meredith Board of Selectmen held a public hearing regarding the \$5 million Ten Year Plan project on US3/NH25 in Meredith. The BOS voted against a three roundabout configuration after concerns were raised by the public about the project not helping traffic. A lot of work has gone into researching the issues and developing this as a preferred solution. TAC members commented that the traffic circle in Plymouth works really well.

Scenic Byway Advisory Committee: LRPC staff is working with the 13 byway communities to put together an Advisory Committee. So far, ten of 13 communities have appointed a representative to participate on the committee. Committee requirements include: representation from each byway community, established bylaws, and must meet once or twice annually. The committee's first meeting proposed for March 4 at 12:30, before the TAC meeting.

UPWP 2016-2017 – regional projects, data collection: LRPC has submitted to NHDOT a draft of their proposed Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY16-17. As a result of the update to the regional plan which added transportation network impacts on water quality as a focus of transportation planning efforts, related proposed work tasks include: creating a GIS layer of stormwater drainage leading to Winnepesaukee, and using GIS to assess culvert vulnerability and unpaved roadway runoff (identified by DES as a leading cause of siltation). LRPC is also looking at hosting a Complete Streets workshop, and building in a 20 percent match requirement for certain services including some data collection. The next step is input from NHDOT Planning and Community Assistance staff. Proposals to be finalized in the next couple of months.

Ten Year Plan (TYP) Update: LRPC has not yet sent out a letter to communities regarding the upcoming TYP update process. While specific guidelines for the upcoming cycle have not yet been provided by NHDOT, indications are that the focus will be on roads and bridges, maintenance/preservation and safety. DOT encourages the RPCs to send letters out to their communities soliciting projects sooner rather than later. In 2013 LRPC neither encouraged nor discouraged new projects. LRPC is looking to populate the baseline information for each of the projects in the TIP (2013).

Discussion ensued regarding the process for a town taking over ownership of state roads. The process involves a local match of somewhere between 20 – 30 percent as the state brings the road up to standard before the town takes ownership and assumes maintenance responsibility thereafter. The process is initiated by the community. B. Rollins explained that the District is fixing some secondary roads under a program called Reconstruct Secondary Roads (RSR). Among these are Cushing Corner Road in Freedom, Route 25B in Center Harbor, Clark/Colby Road in Tilton, and Barnard Ridge Road in Meredith. RSR is not a match program and has a less formalized system of prioritization for funding than the TYP. The gas tax has prompted a lot of this, there has been more money for a couple years to catch up a little bit, but after this year the money is going to go to I-93.

The TAC viewed a video entitled “Broken Highways” by T. Taylor, focused on the disrepair of NH’s secondary state roads.

Regional Transportation Improvements Plan (TIP)

Project Proposal format: The format for submitting Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project applications has been revised and standardized for use by all RPC/MPOs. The new form is 12 questions and reflects the basic information needed for all projects statewide. Applicants may now fill-out an online form and submit an application digitally. When applications are submitted they go to the regional planning commission, the TAC then evaluates the regional priorities and submits their recommendations to the LRPC commissioners for their endorsement before going off to NHDOT to support their decision-making process for the state Ten Year Plan. LRPC will send out a letter and within the next two months the TAC will be evaluating projects.

Regional Projects update: LRPC staff reviewed projects from the 2013 TIP and identified where baseline application information is needed. A new field in the application form that had not existed in the previous form is “Goals and Objectives”. Many projects have near complete information, while others only an official letter of support and not much else. The projects were reviewed and discussed one-by-one and project updates were provided by TAC representatives present. LRPC staff is available to work with applicant

communities to assist in completing the required information for these projects and may be especially useful in creation of vicinity maps and potential impact maps.

Reduced Salt Areas

While there are no Low Salt Areas on state routes in the Lakes Region, LRPC is interested in compiling an inventory of where the Low Salt Areas do exist, and creating a map. There are no waterbodies in the Lakes Region that are impaired for sodium. LRPC staff expressed interest in reviewing and drawing from local Winter Maintenance Plans and Sidewalk Maintenance Plans where available.

B. Rollins explained that District 3 uses liquid calcium in four locations. It activates quickly and stays on pavement longer. Pre-treating is done on I-93 where the road is sprayed the day before, but there has been limited success due to difficulties with second-hand equipment. Salt won't activate below 18 degrees, so sand is used for colder temperatures. It was pointed out that sand application can present environmental problems as well. B. Rollins is not aware of stormwater utility fees in the Lakes Region, but maybe in Manchester.

Other Business

S. Favorite shared a recent publication of the Newfound Lake Region Association reporting that the quality of Newfound Lake is getting better. There is a desire to protect the water from Alexandria's end. The lake is still milfoil free and the state has been checking boats before they launch.

T. Taylor shared with TAC that the Capital Corridor Rail Study website is up and can be accessed via NHDOT website. The draft plan is about 1,800 pages. Governor Hassan released a statement in support of the work.

D. Callister reminded TAC members that several communities have copies of this year's Land Use Regulations book that need to be picked up and there is a box of old master plans from various communities that members are welcome to take as well.

The next TAC meeting will be March 4, 2015 at LRPC. Motion to adjourn.

M/S/Passed Favorite/Taylor