

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Sheldon Morgan, Chairman, Gilford
Brad Harriman, Vice-Chairman, Ossipee
Rick Ball, Belmont
Ken McWilliams, Alton
John Edgar, Meredith
Lloyd Wood, Tuftonboro
David Kerr, Barnstead
Katherine Dawson, Tilton
Eli Badger, Ashland
John Gotjen, Tamworth
Tink Taylor, Holderness
Steve Favorite, Bristol
Dave Ford, Wolfeboro
Shanna Saunders, Laconia

OTHERS PRESENT

Warren Hutchins, LRPC / Laconia
Michael Izard, LRPC Interim Director
Daniel Callister, LRPC Regional Planner
Bill Watson, NHDOT
Mark Howard, Tuftonboro
Bill Rollins, NHDOT District 3
Bob Pollock, New Hampton
Dave Toth, Ashland
Peter Nourse, Gilford

Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 2:05PM. Motion to approve minutes of February 4.
M/S/Passed Favorite/Ball, Abstaining: Harriman, Edgar

Peter Nourse was acknowledged as Gilford's new TAC alternate. No public comment.

Regional Updates

Scenic Byway Advisory Committee: Scenic Byway Advisory Committee's first meeting held today just before TAC. John Edgar voted as Chairman. This is a subcommittee of the TAC, rules of procedure need to be adopted that articulate the relationship between the TAC and this subcommittee. Next meeting will be September or October. Funding for the development of a Corridor Management Plan expires November 2015.

Reconstruct Secondary Routes (RSR) Project List: Bill Rollins, NHDOT District 3 explained that the District currently receives \$600,000 per year for paving secondary routes. Intensive resurfacing is conducted with the funds, not true reconstruction. The current source of funding will be used to for I-93 bond repayment in 2016. Projects on the RSR list for District 3 include Barnard Ridge Road - Meredith, NH Route 25B - Center Harbor, Clark Road / Colby Street - Tilton, Cushing Corner Road - Freedom, NH Route 11C - Gilford, NH Route 106 at Pease Road - Meredith. Districts 2 and 3 will provide their paving lists to LRPC to distribute.

US Route 3/NH Route 25 Update: John Edgar provided update on this Ten Year Plan (TYP) project. A preferred alternative was developed by a citizen's advisory committee which included three roundabouts within the village area. A proposal to accept committee recommendations was defeated at Board of Selectmen public hearing following 4½ hours of testimony. Board of Selectmen resignations will soon result in 4 of 5 new selectboard members. The outcome is uncertain, but the town continues to support project's placement in the TYP.

Local Public Agency (LPA): LPA training format has changed from two full days at DOT to a day-long DOT training that covers the project development process (certification good for 3 years) and a separate day-long Labor Compliance certification (good for 2 years). It is recommended to take the labor compliance training later since the content is subject to change. The LPA manual is being updated and DOT trainings this year will take place in April, May, and October. Since municipally managed project agreements are between NHDOT and municipalities, each community must have someone certified even if a town-hired consultant is certified.

Green Snow Pro: Green Snow Pro winter road maintenance trainings (discussed at previous TAC meeting) will be March 30, April 15, and June 17. The March meeting is in Meredith. Training is \$100/person.

Street Light Discontinuance Program: NHDOT is in the process of determining street lights that can be discontinued in response to budget cuts. The selection is based on evaluation of safety and other factors. The Ossipee Board of Selectmen received letter indicating 30 of 40 lights have been identified on NH Route 16 to be turned off - some at intersections identified as safety concerns in the ongoing NH Route 16 Safety Assessment. NHDOT maintains a digital street light inventory in map form that indicates where lights exist and which are targeted to be turned off. A question remains whether fixtures and poles will be physically removed or if towns can pay to keep certain lights on. A hearing is scheduled for Friday in Portsmouth to provide input regarding the lights in Ossipee.

Regional Transportation Improvements Program (TIP)

TAC Member Update on Intent to Submit TYP Proposal: Community representatives were asked to share what they knew about their community's intention to submit applications for TYP projects (applications are due to LRPC March 20).

Moultonborough: intends to submit upwards of nine applications.

Belmont: intends to apply for NH Route 140 at Main Street project, as suggested by former NHDOT Commissioner Clement.

Alton: intends to continue to support project on NH 11 Minge Cove to Ellacoya (with Gilford), and NH 28 from Alton Circle south to Barnstead.

Ossipee: no new projects. Is updated letter of support needed for existing TYP project? It was noted that the TAC should confirm existing TYP projects are still the regional priorities.

Meredith: supports NH 25 Pleasant Street to Center Harbor. NH 104 is not a priority since the leading concern along this segment (Meredith Center Rd intersection) is being addressed through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). NH 106 from US 3 to Laconia city line will need to talk with NHDOT District 3 before making a decision. Barnard Ridge can come off since it's not Federal Aid Eligible. US 3 from NH 106 south is not a priority for Meredith, but is supported if Laconia is interested.

Tuftonboro: intends to submit three new applications. NH 109 at NH 109A, a section of NH 109 with perpetual pooling, and NH 171.

Barnstead: still supports the NH 28 project and is hopeful for Peacham Road.

Tilton: is not sure about the status of the Road Safety Audit project at Silver Lake Road at US 3.

New Hampton: intends to submit five applications. Study of I-93 to Sinclair Road, redesign of NB ramp onto NH 104, realignment of Shingle Camp Road and I-93 southbound ramp, limited access on NH 104 from I-93 to Sinclair Road, and dangerous section of NH 132 north of Ambrose pit.

Laconia: explained that US 3 from 11B to Meredith roundabout is not a priority, but supports project at NH 106/107 bypass ramps.

Ashland: is not ready to submit an application at this time.

Northfield: has none.

Wolfeboro: will continue to support existing TYP project.

Holderness: will apply for one new project to improve shoulders on NH 175, and said that NH 113 will be paved in 2017.

Bristol: continues to support existing project, however new information about Freudenberg may result in changes.

Gilford: supports existing project on NH 11 (with Alton) and may submit one new project.

Applications serve as baseline information proposals must to be evaluated. Only Federal Aid Eligible (FAE) roads will be considered for the TYP.

Bill Watson provided the group with general guidance for how to wholly represent regional needs when applying for very limited DOT funding. The TYP includes a wide variety of funding programs including Transportation Alternatives, State-Aid Bridge, etc. We know there is significantly more need than resources. It is expected that there will be roughly \$20 million statewide for new projects. Patrick McKenna, the Deputy Commissioner insists that the TYP be fiscally constrained to the funding that we have today. Based on population and road miles, the Lakes Region's cut for new TYP projects over two years will likely be \$2 – 4 million, which would likely fund one or two projects in 2025 or 2026. Even though the applications are a lot of work with little hope of funding, they are still needed to know each region's priorities. Evaluation criteria and weights will be developed next week at the Transportation Planning Collaborative meeting. Each region is welcome to develop criteria weights however when this was done in 2013 it didn't end up making a difference.

The use of vehicle registration for NHDOT operating budget was discussed.

TIP Critical Dates Review and TAC Meeting Schedule Discussion: Project applications are due March 20. LRPC staff will do preliminary project filtering prior to getting project information out to TAC members one week before the April 1 TAC meeting. Executive Board meets April 8 and this will be the opportunity for them to review TAC recommendations before they need to be submitted to NHDOT by April 30.

The next TAC meeting will be April 1, 2015 from 12:30 – 4:00 to allow time for project evaluation and ranking. Motion to adjourn.

M/S/Passed Favorite/Ball