

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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TO: Lakes Region Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Michael IZARD, Principal Planner 

DATE: October 5, 2016

**Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Minutes of Wednesday, September 7, 2016**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Sheldon Morgan, Gilford (Chair)
George Tuthill, Alexandria
John Gotjen, Tamworth
Paul Hazelton, Hebron
Nic Strong, Alton
Brad Harriman, Ossipee
Rick Ball, Belmont
Eli Badger, Ashland
Robert Pollack, New Hampton

OTHERS PRESENT

Jeffery Hayes, Executive Director
Michael IZARD, LRPC Principal Planner
David Toth, Ashland (Alt.)
Peter Norse, Gilford (Alt.)
Erica Hebert, Administrative Assistant
Allison Young, Intern at PSU
Amy Villamagna, PSU Assistant Professor

Call to Order – Introductions – Past Minutes

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 2:00. No public comment was provided. Motion to approve minutes of June 1, 2016 with noted name change. - M/S/Passed Pollack/Ball (Abstaining: Strong, Tuthill and Hazelton).

Election of Officers

Chairman Morgan opened the floor to nominations for TAC officers. Noted are S. Morgan and B. Harriman, Vice Chairman currently fill the positions up for vote; LRPC staff serve as TAC Secretary. N. Strong moves to nominate the same Chairman and Vice Chairman from last year. Motion to approve slate of officer's M/S/Passed Gotjen/Badger

Regional Updates:

Complete Streets Legislative Bike/Walk Event

M. Izard discussed the two complete street events held in Bristol and Laconia in July and August. The event in Bristol had good participation. A focus of the Bristol event was the condition of West Shore Road. Laconia had fewer participants, however the Mayor did attend and the focus was downtown. The DOT has put up a complete streets page on their website that has useful background information. There is more education needed for a Complete Streets policy in NH.

J. Hayes discussed that several other RPC's have joined the coalition for Complete Streets and LRPC is one of the two RPC's that have not yet joined. Consideration is being given, a concern is that not many groups or municipalities in our region have joined and he would like to see more support around our region first. This is a matter that has to be discussed at the commission and board level before any decisions can be made.

Master Plan Updates

M. Izard discusses that LRPC is currently working to provide technical assistance to Laconia and Moultonborough in updating their master plan transportation chapters. LRPC staff worked Walk Score technicians to create a city-wide score. The downtown area scored the highest. Pedestrian accident locations were compared with the walk score areas to see if there was a higher accident rate in areas where there is the heaviest walk flow.

Scenic Byway Advisory Committee

M. Izard discussed how NHDOT District 3 has completed tree and brush clearing at the scenic overlook on Route 11 in Gilford. The view is still obstructed by some high trees. In the past, the town of Gilford Selectmen surveyed abutting landowners to see if they would be interested in cutting trees on their properties. About 1/2 were in favor and 1/2 against. An alternative recommendation from the byway Corridor Management Plan is to create an observation platform above tree line. A NHDOT staff member suggested changing the 'scenic view' sign to 'seasonal view'.

SBAC members conducted an outreach meeting with Belknap Economic Development Council (BEDC). Important points from the meeting were: 1) out of the fifteen people that attended, only three were aware of the byway (more education is needed); 2) the group liked the idea of new byway signs (BEDC is willing to coordinate with the Belknap schools to have a competition with the students in creating a new byway logo); 3) groups may be more receptive if the SBAC can provide a list of projects and the projected costs (knowing the needs, others will likely help to find the funding).

Transportation Alternative Program:

M. Izard discussed the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) timeline. The TAC is responsible for evaluating projects and providing DOT with ranking the regional priority project by the end of October. Applications were due September 2; LRPC should get copies of the applications from NHDOT around September 12. LRPC staff will provide applications and scoring materials to the TAC members.

Statewide there was 56 letters of interest submitted; for the lakes region, there were seven letters of interest and five towns have submitted applications. To meet the October deadline, the October 5 TAC meeting should be for project presentations. M. Izard then reviewed past (2014) and 2016 scoring criteria proposed by state TAP Advisory committee. Discussion ensues about the recommended criteria.

Chairman Morgan takes a vote: the TAC should not include the ranking of socio economic in the scoring system; ten votes were in favor of not including the socio economic scoring. The TAC expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of explanation of how the state is ranking the 12 percent for the socioeconomic and what exactly it is measuring. TAC members will score each criteria and sub criteria on a 1 to 10 scale.

Water Quality Threat PowerPoint Presentation (Allison Young and Amy Villamagna)

Allison Young and Amy Villamagna discussed presented a PowerPoint about the water quality study that identifies areas in Lake Winnepesaukee where stormwater run-off issues may be greatest. This water quality threat assessment is a hierarchal look at a series of GIS layers including slopes, land use density, proximity of surface waters to transportation network, etc. A purpose is to create a map to help people to understand the transportation impact on water quality, what can be done to prevent pollution to the lake and what steps can be made to prevent further damage to the lake. Right now this assessment is in the early stages and they will have more information as the study progresses.

Other Business

Chairman Morgan stated that a woman instrumental in the walkway in Moultonborough named Pat Thomas is a bit frustrated because the town will not finish the walkway by painting the striping. She is still working on getting it completed so that people walking will know where exactly to walk so as to not create an issue with bumping into others. She asked him to pass the information along to the TAC members.

Next meeting is October 5, 2016 at the New Hampton Public Safety Building.

Motion to adjourn at 4:10

M/S/Passed Pollock/Gotjen