

Lakes Region Transportation Workshop

Friday, November 15, 2013
Meredith Community Center, One Circle Drive, Meredith, NH
10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Facilitated small group input on three transportation questions:

1) How can public transit in the Lakes Region become more viable?

- We need a committee to get together to talk about this.
- There is disconnection between what the citizens want/need and how officials respond.
- Existing services need to be better advertised.
- Sustainable funding source
- Frequency, meeting the real needs.
- Convenient Park & Ride locations that connect well with transit.
- Connectivity to other systems
- Public transit is not even a possibility in some communities.
- Seek additional grants from private groups such as the Meredith Village SB – Carroll County Transit does this;
- Contact transit destinations such as banks, employers and others; educate them regarding incentives and tailor the routes to meet the needs of the commuter;
- Promote rideshare and make it sustainable; contact employers; connect people;
- A portion of the automobile registration fee could be allocated to a dedicated fund for public transit; and
- Explore successful models used in other rural areas.
- Connect Public Transportation as a function with a unit of government as a way to handle the challenge of integrating multiple transportation services that are each tailored to a specific group.
- Find out where people are traveling **statewide** so that we can create an interconnected public transportation network.
- Educate public about available forms of transportation.
 - o Utilize “branding”
 - o Target younger population through digital media
 - o Blue Loon is an example of a system with deficient outreach
- Locate stops in visible and/or accessible locations.
- Make sure all eligible users are aware that they are eligible (many times, people assume that the public transportation options in their communities are only available to those with special needs, when really, everyone is oftentimes free to use them.

2) What are the top transportation issues and needs in the Lakes Region?

- Repair and maintenance, especially of local roads.
- Funding on a user basis rather than a registration basis.
- Connectivity
- Flexibility of use and funding

- Education on transportation – know all the options;
- “Too road dependent”; promote the concept of a village center;
- Additional funds and priority for secondary roads such as NH Routes 109, 113, 41, 132 and others;
- Rail – low priority but has some successes such as the Down Easter (Portland to Boston); potential for Portland to Montreal rail route;
- LRPC TAC should embrace a more “multi modal” approach and the ranking should reflect that;
- Identify successful case studies such as the Bristol downtown project;
- Promote jobs for the village areas; villages should be more walkable;
- Transportation should compliment the various modes; and
- Identify “nodal points” for potential park n’ ride facilities.
- FUNDING
- The region needs a goal that is different from the “keep the good good” goal, because so many of the roads are bad.
- Further develop and promote the region’s scenic routes.
- Develop a Lakes Region Scenic Byway network.
- Look at the needs of the workforce. Can people really use public transportation to get to work?
- More data: road conditions, travel patterns, etc., etc.
- Expand the Gas Tax
- Apply a luxury tax to second vehicle registrations.

3) What more can the Lakes Region Planning Commission do to facilitate transportation improvements?

- Move the location of TAC meetings throughout the region.
- Help remove funding, communication, and usage silos.
- Communication between local and state
- Get towns engaged, get a broader voice.
- Engage businesses
- Educate citizens
- Legislators’ participation in TAC and other regional planning efforts.
- Keep “beating the drum” for transportation improvements in the Lakes Region;
- Encourage improvements to secondary roads such as NH Route 171;
- Conduct an “inventory and assessment” of all secondary roads in need of improvements; RSMS; develop a focused approach;
- Be a strong advocate for the transportation improvements in the Lakes Region; and
- Advocate for an increase to the gas tax and make sure the Lakes Region receives its “fair share” of transportation revenues.
- Focus on the communities that don’t have professional staff.
- Figure out how to generate funding on the county level and partner counties with DOT.
- Define and study “transportation-sheds” (i.e., areas of concentrated travel).
- Statewide coordination between RPCs
- Combine different pots of turnpike funds so that priorities can be compiled and addressed together.
- Look at alternatives to tolls that collect fees based on miles traveled.