

**Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission  
Meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

January 12, 2010 Meeting Minutes  
Lebanon Senior Center- Lebanon, NH

**Attendees:**

Van Chesnut, Chair, Advance Transit  
Dave Edkins, Charlestown  
Richard Lee, New London  
Dick Jones, Lyme  
Peter Kulbacki, Hanover  
Barbara Brill, CATS  
Mike Lavalla, Lebanon  
Dean Eastman, NHDOT  
Nate Miller, UVLSRPC

**Introductions and Approval of December 8th Meeting Minutes**

Following introductions, Dave Edkins moved that the minutes of December 8th be accepted as submitted. Peter Kulbacki seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**GACIT/Ten-Year Plan Updates**

Nate Miller reported that the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) adopted the draft 2011-2020 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. The two key changes for our region remain in the adopted plan: 1) The advancement of the project to reconstruct Mechanic Street in Lebanon from 2016 to 2013; and 2) The inclusion of a project to reconstruct Main Street in the Town of New London. The New London Main Street project is currently budgeted for \$2.0 million and is scheduled for 2019.

Nate Miller reported an interesting development at the December 9<sup>th</sup> GACIT Hearing. Representatives of the New Hampshire Motor Speedway approached GACIT with a last-minute request to add a \$1 million project to the Ten-Year Plan for Planning and Engineering an expansion of NH Route 106. The project had not been vetted or prioritized in the appropriate regional processes (Lakes Region and Central NH Region). Ultimately, GACIT voted 3-3 on a motion include the project in the Ten-Year Plan. Because the vote was a tie, the motion failed and the project was not included. Nate Miller noted that this decision reaffirmed the importance of the regional process to review and prioritize potential Ten-Year Plan projects.

Nate Miller reported that, following the December 9th GACIT Hearing, the 2011-2020 Ten-Year Plan was submitted to Governor Lynch for approval. The Governor approved the Ten-Year Plan on December 21<sup>st</sup>, and has submitted it to the Legislature for their approval.

**Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program Update**

Nate Miller reported that January 8<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for CMAQ Letters of Intent. No letters were submitted for projects in the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region. This is not surprising

because our region is in attainment of federal air quality thresholds, making it prohibitively difficult for a project from our region to qualify for CMAQ funding. Nate Miller reported that three Letters of Intent were submitted for projects that purport statewide air quality benefits. Once applications are submitted in the spring, the UVLSRPC TAC will have standing to review and provide feedback on any applications for projects that purport statewide air quality benefits.

### **Discussion of Proposed I-93 Demonstration Toll Project**

Nate Miller recapped the TAC's previous discussion on the proposed I-93 demonstration toll project at the Massachusetts State Line, and distributed an "I-93 Funding Fact Sheet" developed by the NHDOT Commissioner's Office. TAC members discussed the concept and potential benefits of the toll. Dick Jones advised that users of the I-93 facility should have a direct role in helping to pay for the \$800 million expansion project. Richard Lee noted his support for the I-93 tolling concept, but expressed concern that the projected savings would not materialize as NHDOT's "I-93 Funding Fact Sheet" purports. Van Chesnut expressed support for the tolling concept, but advised that the proposed toll will address only one aspect of a much larger statewide transportation funding crisis.

Following a substantial discussion, Barbara Brill moved that the TAC express its support for the I-93 demonstration toll project. Barbara noted that any correspondence to NHDOT regarding this issue should note that the proposed toll has a limited scope. NHDOT should recognize that our current statewide transportation funding issues will require not only new, diverse funding streams, but also implementation efficiencies. Peter Kulbacki seconded and the motion passed with Mike Lavalla opposing.

### **Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Update**

Nate Miller provided an update about NHDOT's efforts with the Highway Safety Improvement Program. This program is largely driven by accident data, and NHDOT has identified two potential HSIP projects in the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee region:

- Improvements at the intersection of NH Route 10/East Thetford Road in Lyme
- Improvements on U.S. Route 4 from the Lebanon/Enfield Town Line to the intersection of U.S. Route 4/Maple/Main Street in Enfield

Nate Miller reported that he will be forming a working group of Lyme officials, residents, and businesses to work with NHDOT staff to reach consensus on a series of improvements at the intersection. Such improvements could include: better defining the intersection/stripping, removing some of the excess pavement, installing a channelizing island, improving signage, and formalizing pedestrian crosswalks.

Nate Miller distributed accident data from U.S. Route 4 in Enfield, noting that he recently participated in a field review of the road with staff from the Town of Enfield and NHDOT. The accident data showed 59 accidents between 2003 and 2007. During the field review, a number of potential improvements were identified, including: Installation of high-friction surface overlays in areas with steep grades, drainage improvements, and geometric enhancements to the intersection of Route 4/Maple/Main Street.

## **Shortlist of Potential Sites for the Upper Valley Intermodal Transportation Facility**

Nate Miller reported that the Upper Valley Intermodal Transportation Facility Project Advisory Committee met on December 18<sup>th</sup> to select a “shortlist” of sites to carry into Phase II of the project’s alternatives analysis. The five sites selected were:

- The current site of the VTrans District 4 Maintenance Facility and the adjacent former hotel property on Beswick Drive in White River Junction, VT.
- The Westboro Rail Yard in West Lebanon, NH and the adjacent “Wye” parcel in White River Junction, VT.
- The Carter Country Club property on Mechanic Street in Lebanon, NH.
- The Friedman property on Heater Road in Lebanon, NH.
- The former Densmore Brickyard property on Hanover Street Ext. in Lebanon, NH.

Nate Miller announced that a Public Hearing to discuss the shortlisted sites is scheduled for 7:00 PM on February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Lebanon City Council Chambers.

### **Other Business/Updates**

The TAC confirmed their next meeting for February 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM, at the Lebanon Senior Center.

Dick Jones moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM. Richard Lee seconded and the motion passed unanimously.