

**Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

April 9, 2024

4:00-5:30 PM
Hybrid Meeting via Zoom
Kilton Public Library
80 Main St, West Lebanon, NH 03784

Members Present: Dick Jones (Lyme, Vice Chair); Liz Emerson (Charlestown); Christina Hall (Hanover); Bill Chaisson (Wilmot); Adams Carroll (Advance Transit); John Haffner (Vital Communities); Ellen Hender (Vital Communities, Remote)

Partners Present: Lucy St. John (NHDOT, Remote), Ross Wood (NHDOT District II, Remote), Vanessa Partington (NHDES, Remote); Tala Silver (Tri-County CAP, Remote); Polly Crocker (NHDES); Koorosh Asadifakhr (UNH)

UVLSRPC Staff Present: Majestic Terhune

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. Action on Minutes from February 13, 2024

Emerson motioned to approve the minutes. Heffner seconded. All voted in favor 6-0-0.

III. Presentation on NH Stream Crossing Replacement Prioritization

Crocker introduced the Stream Crossing Replacement Prioritization project led by NHDES and UNH. She provided an overview of the project, its team members, its work with a technical advisory committee, the NH Stream Crossing Initiative, and key goals, highlighting that many stream crossings in New Hampshire are old and undersized. Notably, the project aims to link data to funding opportunities to encourage planning stream crossing updates ahead of failures and to overall make data more usable.

Jones asked about the difference between bridges and culverts for the project. St. John and Wood clarified that structures over ten feet are considered bridges. Asadifakhr stated that the term stream crossing includes both bridges and culverts, but for the purposes of the project, the team is looking at stream crossings ten feet and below.

Crocker described the project objective of developing a stakeholder-informed prioritization framework for stream crossing replacements to achieve optimal ecological, economic, and societal outcomes, which the TAC can assist with.

Asadifakhr described how the scoring and ranking system works with the eight identified goals. Chaisson asked about how the goals were identified. Asadifakhr stated that the technical advisory committee used their expertise to try to be as comprehensive as possible when pinpointing potential goals.

Several members of the TAC agreed that flood vulnerability is one of the biggest priorities regarding stream crossings.

Asadifakhr, Crocker, Hall, and Jones discussed current grant application difficulty with weighting factors and potential applications to various grants/research/plans. Chaisson and Asadifakhr discussed the idea behind using multi-objective optimization. Silver asked whether this was the same project that happened in Stratford, NH, and Crocker replied that it was not, but that project may have come out of a similar initiative.

IV. Public Involvement Plan Discussion and Vote

Terhune described the Public Involvement Plan and noted that Attachment B would be amended. Chaisson stated that he had no issues with the plan. *Chaisson moved to accept the Public Involvement Plan with the proposed changes. Carroll seconded. All voted in favor 6-0-0.*

V. Ten-Year Plan and Long-Range Transportation Updates

Terhune stated that UVLSRPC began collecting letters of intent from municipalities ahead of anticipated calls for Ten-Year Plan project applications, and that edits continue to be made to the draft Long-Range Transportation Plan.

VI. Updates from Members

- a) Emerson provided updates on the Cheshire Bridge construction anticipated to start in 2025. Emerson answered Chaisson and Jones questions about the project.
- b) Jones stated that Lyme seems to be moving ahead with finding funds for renovations of Edgell Bridge.
- c) Partington said that NHDES DERA funding will be opening for diesel vehicle replacement soon.
- d) St. John noted that NHDOT's draft Public Involvement Process is open for public comment through May 15.
- e) Hall stated that Hanover is doing a pilot study for sidewalk improvements to try to create safer crossings at the Dartmouth Green. Chaisson asked about parking capacity, and Hall noted that some spaces would be impacted and described the varying capacities across lots in downtown Hanover. Carroll and Hall discussed resulting lane changes.
- f) Chaisson described Wilmot's history with Route 4A, speed concerns, NHDOT's response, and a recent public survey that demonstrated public desire for changes along 4A. The Town is hoping to move forward with a traffic calming study.

- g) Carroll said that Advance Transit would be hosting guests on April 10 to discuss electrical charging infrastructure, which will coincide with Vital Communities' leadership event.

VII. Other Business

- a) Terhune shared information about NHDOT's draft Public Involvement Process, the Lebanon Route 120 charrette, UVLSRPC's RFQ for an on-call transportation engineer, NDHOT and NHDES' recent presentation to NH RPC directors on charging and fueling infrastructure grant opportunities, and current grant opportunities.

VIII. Adjourn

Emerson motioned to adjourn. Chaisson seconded. All voted in favor 6-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Majestic Terhune.