

**Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission**  
**Meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**  
June 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes  
UVLSRPC Offices- Lebanon, NH

**Attendees:**

Van Chesnut, Chair, Advance Transit  
Dick Jones, Lyme  
Richard Lee, New London  
Mike Lavalla, Lebanon  
Dave Edkins, Charlestown  
Hon. Raymond Burton, NH Executive Council  
Dean Eastman, NHDOT  
Nate Miller, UVLSRPC  
Christine Walker, UVLSRPC

TAC Chairman Van Chesnut called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**Approval of April 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes:**

Dick Jones moved to approve the minutes of April 9, 2013 as submitted. Ray Burton seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Election of TAC Officers:**

Dave Edkins nominated Van Chesnut to serve as Chair and Dick Jones to serve as Vice-Chair. Mike Lavalla seconded the nomination and the slate was elected unanimously.

**Updates from NHDOT:**

Dean Eastman reported that a team of NHDOT staff is currently scoring Ten-Year Plan projects and comparing state priorities to regional priorities. The draft 2015-2014 Ten-Year Plan is expected to be released in late August.

Dean Eastman reported that the project to replace the U.S. Route 4 Bridge over the Connecticut River is scheduled to advertise in early July.

Councilor Ray Burton reported that two competing transportation funding bills were recently defeated. The NH House of Representatives passed a bill that would increase the state gasoline tax by a total of 12 cents over several years. That bill was defeated in the NH Senate. Similarly, the NH Senate passed a bill to fund a portion of the state's infrastructure needs via casino-related revenues. That bill was defeated in the NH House of Representatives.

Councilor Burton advised that he is coordinating with Councilor Colin Van Ostern to schedule a joint GACIT Hearing in the Town of Charlestown.

**2015-2024 Ten-Year Plan Update:**

Nate Miller reported that he submitted correspondence to NHDOT Commissioner Chris Clement documenting the region's prioritization process and detailing the TAC's 2015-2024 Ten-Year Plan priorities. That correspondence was previously shared with TAC members, and is available to the public online at: <http://www.uvlsrpc.org/projects/comitees-related-to-projects/transportation-advisory-committee/>.

Nate Miller reported that the NHDOT anticipates meeting with each Regional Planning Commission in the state individually to discuss priority projects before the draft 2015-2024 Ten-Year Plan is released later this summer.

**2013-2016 STIP Amendment #2:**

Nate Miller updated the TAC on four projects that saw funding or timeline adjustments in 2013-2016 STIP Amendment #2.

- There is a new project (programmed at \$2.978 Million) to provide scour protection for the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge scheduled for construction in 2015. This project was not on the NHDOT Bureau of Bridge Design’s recommendations for the 2015-2024 Ten-Year Plan and emerged as a result of a recent inspection that showed significant bridge scour issues.
- There is \$689,000 programmed for engineering and right-of-way acquisition for the Interstate 89 bridges over Hardy Hill Road. This is likely an indication that NHDOT concurs with the TAC’s recommendation to add these bridges to the 2015-2024 Ten-Year Plan.
- There is now \$816,000 programmed for engineering and right-of-way acquisition for the Mascoma Street Bridge over Interstate 89. Again, this is likely an indication that NHDOT will add this project to the 2015-2024 Ten-Year Plan.
- The construction timeline for the replacement of the U.S. Route 4 Bridge over the Connecticut River has been condensed to three years (2013-2015), which is likely a more accurate estimate given that the project is scheduled to advertise in July.

**Review of Regional Plan Existing Conditions Profile:**

Nate Miller reviewed some of the initial findings from the UVLSRPC Regional Plan profile of existing transportation conditions in the region:

- Pavement condition on state-maintained roads in the region is worse than the State of New Hampshire as a whole.

Measure	UVLSRPC Region (2012)	Statewide (2012)
State Highway in Good Condition	81 Miles (18% of Regional Network)	828 Miles (19% of State Network )
State Highway in Fair Condition	165 Miles (36% of Regional Network)	1,867 Miles (44% of State Network)
State Highway in Poor Condition	207 Miles (46% of Regional Network)	1,565 Miles (37% of State Network)

- There are 80 Red-listed bridges in the UVLSRPC Region (16 state-owned and 64 municipally-owned). Approximately 23% of municipally-owned bridges in the region are on the Red List, versus 21% of all municipally-owned bridges statewide. Approximately 6% of state-owned bridges in the region are on the Red List, versus 7% of all state-owned bridges in new Hampshire.
- There were 92 fatal crashes in the UVLSRPC Region over the past 10 years. However, the five-year moving average of highway fatalities is decreasing significantly (from 11 in 2006 to 7 in 2012).
- Public transportation ridership in the UVLSRPC Region continues reach new records, with over 835,000 rides provided in 2012.

**Updates from TAC Members:**

Dave Edkins reported that an invasive species known as Giant Hogweed has been reported to be growing along NH Route 12. Touching giant hogweed can cause blistering, scarring, or blindness (if the oils/sap contacts eyes).

Councilor Ray Burton reported that he is planning his annual tour of small airports in New Hampshire for August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mike Lavalla thanked UVLSRPC staff and TAC members for attending the recent dedication of the NH Route 12A improvement project.

**Adjournment:**

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