

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

October 13, 2009 Meeting Minutes
Lebanon Senior Center- Lebanon, NH

Attendees:

Van Chesnut, Chair, Advance Transit
William Rose, NHDOT
Bruce Temple, Claremont
Richard Lee, New London
Dick Jones, Lyme
Mike Lavalla, Lebanon
Barbara Brill, CATS
Peter Kulbacki, Hanover
Dennis Pavlicek, Newbury
Nate Miller, UVLSRPC

Guests:

Nancy Merrill, Claremont
Joyce McKay, NHDOT
David Brooks, Lebanon
Jessie Levine, New London
Bob MacMichael, New London
Maureen Prohl, New London
Tim Herson, Claremont

Introductions and Approval of August 11th Meeting Minutes

Following introductions, Dick Jones moved that the minutes of August 11th be accepted as submitted. Barbara Brill seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Transportation Enhancement Program Applicant Presentations

City of Claremont- Sugar River Pathway

Bruce Temple and Nancy Merrill presented the City of Claremont's application to develop the Sugar River Pathway. The Sugar River Pathway would be a paved, multi-use path along the Sugar River linking Main Street, Visitors Center, Pedestrian Bridge, Mill District, City Center, and Washington Street ending at Riverside Park. The proposal also includes landscaping and lighting improvements along the route of the Sugar River Pathway. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$721,200 and the request for TE funding is \$576,200.

Questions/Comments:

Q. Does Right-of-Way need to be acquired for the project?

A. No, the City of Claremont has the necessary Right-of-Way to complete the work.

Q. How will the pedestrian crossing at Washington Street function?

A. An actuated signal will allow pedestrian crossings at the intersection.

Q. Why does the requested amount vs. total cost of budget line items vary from 80%?

A. The total requested amount is 80% of the total project cost. Because the TE program allows for a combination of cash and in-kind match, this will vary for specific budgetary line items. For instance, because the City of Claremont has engineering staff in-house, much of the cost of engineering will be provided in-kind by the City.

Q. Could this project be phased?

A. Yes, the project could be phased.

City of Lebanon- Meriden Road Improvements

David Brooks presented the City of Lebanon's application to complete Phase I pedestrian/cyclist improvements on Meriden Road. This proposal includes the installation of a 4' paved shoulder on the east side of Meriden Road, and the installation of a 5' shoulder with 5' sidewalk on the west side of Meriden Road from South Street to Messenger Street. The project addresses a significant safety concern in the City of Lebanon (the sharp corner south of South Street), and is noted as a special concern area on the NHDOT bicycle map for the region. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$478,000 and the request for TE funding is \$384,000.

Questions/Comments:

Q. Does Right-of-Way need to be acquired for the project?

A. No, the City of Lebanon has the necessary Right-of-Way to complete the work.

Q. Will adding shoulders encourage people to drive faster?

A. That is a concern, but the shoulders would allow for safe cyclist travel on the road and improve safety (sight distances) at the corner. Overall, adding the shoulders would result in a net positive effect.

Q. Are all current TE projects in Lebanon complete?

A. Yes, all current TE projects in Lebanon have been completed.

Town of New London- Elkins Village Improvements

Jessie Levine presented the Town of New London's application to install sidewalk and complete streetscape improvements (lighting, benches, landscaping) in Elkins Village. The sidewalk improvements would allow for the connection of the Town Beach, Post Office, Boat Launch, and commercial establishments across the town line in Wilmot. In addition, the grant would fund the development of a 1000' multi-use path/interpretative trail linking Elkins Village to Mill Pond Dam and the purchase of the historic Scythe Co. for future renovation as a museum/welcome center. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$862,500 and the request for TE funding is \$680,000.

Questions/Comments:

Q. Are any current traffic counts available on Elkins Road?

A. Yes, UVLSRPC counts traffic on Elkins Road at the bridge (adjacent to the Boat Launch) every three years. (Postscript: Following the meeting, Nate Miller confirmed that the current traffic count on Elkins Road is 1,700 vehicles per day.)

Q. How much new sidewalk would be constructed as part of this project?

A. Approximately 2,600' of new sidewalk and 1,000' of interpretive trail.

Q. Is the Town of New London committed to providing the necessary match funding?

A. Yes, the town has capital reserves to provide the cash match.

NHDOT- Historic Highway Bridge Inventory and Management Plans

Joyce McKay presented the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's proposal to develop a statewide historic highway bridge inventory and to develop recommendations for

managing 291 historic bridges. Existing legislation requires the inventory of historic highway bridges and preservation of those bridges wherever possible, and the planning process for this effort would include Regional Planning Commissions, the New Hampshire Municipal Association, the Division of Historical Resources, state legislators, and professional engineers. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$131,415 and the request for TE funding is \$105,132. Match funding would be provided with NHDOT funds.

Questions/Comments:

Q. How would this effort interface with other statewide bridge preservation efforts (e.g. covered bridge inventories)?

A. This project will focus on bridges 20' or longer, and will be informed by other statewide efforts including the stone culvert inventory. In that effort, specific criteria were developed to evaluate the culverts and make management decisions.

Q. With local projects, you can see measurable results. What would be the measurable results of this effort?

A. This effort will likely reduce the cost of many bridge projects undergoing historic, cultural, and environmental review as having this work done beforehand will create efficiencies in those review processes.

Other Business

The TAC confirmed their next meeting for November 10th at 5:00 PM at the Lebanon Senior Center. Dick Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM. Barbara Brill seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.