

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
Meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
January 13, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Van Chesnut, Chair, Advance Transit
Dick Jones, Vice Chair, Lyme
Dave Edkins, Charlestown
Bruce Temple, Claremont
Richard Lee, New London
Dean Eastman, NHDOT
William Rose, NHDOT
Ed Tinker, Claremont
John Tuthill, Acworth
Nathan Miller, UVLSRPC

The meeting began at 5:00 PM.

Review and Approval of December 9th Meeting Minutes:

Following introductions, Dick Jones proposed a minor amendment to the minutes, and moved that the minutes be accepted as amended. Dave Edkins seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Confirmation of Ten Year Plan Project Recommendations

Nate Miller referred the TAC to the minutes of December 9th, and asked if the Ten Year Plan recommendations as detailed in the minutes remained the consensus of the TAC. The TAC confirmed that the recommendations detailed in the minutes of December 9th accurately reflected the TAC's consensus.

Draft NHDOT Economic Stimulus Program

Nate Miller distributed a draft copy of NHDOT's proposed Economic Stimulus Program (dated 1/07/09). William Rose of NHDOT confirmed that NHDOT was developing such a program of projects, but could not confirm that the 1/07/09 list was current. Nate Miller noted that, to his knowledge, NHDOT had not sought local or regional input in the development of the proposed Economic Stimulus Program.

Nate Miller reviewed the projects in the proposed Economic Stimulus Program. The program totals approximately \$535 Million, with \$300 Million of those funds being targeted to the Nashua-Lowell passenger rail line. The remaining funds are largely targeted toward projects already in the Ten Year Plan. The proposed Economic Stimulus Program also includes significant funds targeted toward the I-93 Corridor expansion and the "Conway Bypass" project.

Bruce Temple noted that NHDES is soliciting "shovel ready" water and sewer projects from municipalities, and that NHLGC (via Senator Shaheen's office) was soliciting a municipal wish list of projects. However, some TAC members expressed concern that their communities were not contacted by NHLGC in regards to a solicitation of municipal projects.

Bruce Temple noted that there are no projects in the proposed Economic Stimulus Program in Sullivan County, and Dave Edkins noted that there aren't any projects in Cheshire County either. Dick Jones wondered why the Economic Stimulus Program did not include funds for municipalities for local paving and improvement projects as such projects can be implemented very quickly.

Bruce Temple expressed a concern that New Hampshire does not have the labor force in place to execute a \$535 Million Economic Stimulus program in which most-or-all projects need to begin within 180 days of receiving funding. Moreover, Bruce Temple questioned whether state government has the staffing capability to process the required permits for these projects. For instance, there are only two people on staff at the state level responsible for reviewing projects for potential impacts to historic resources.

Nate Miller noted that the proposed Economic Stimulus Program was likely to be modified before February's TAC meeting. The TAC will review the updated Stimulus Program and prepare comments to NHDOT at the February meeting.

Finalize TIP Scoring Criteria

Nate Miller introduced the revised TIP scoring criteria, as amended by the TAC in September. The amended scoring system was tested by analyzing five recently completed (or never completed) projects: 1) The Expansion of NH route 120 in Lebanon; 2) The Expansion of West Wheelock Street in Hanover; 3) The Rehabilitation of Pavement on NH Route 4A in Enfield; 4) The Rehabilitation of the Belknap Avenue Bridge in Newport; and 5) The Development of a Park-and-Ride Facility at I-89 Exit 13 in Grantham.

Upon reviewing the results of the scoring system test and subsequent discussion, Dick Jones moved that the TAC adopt the revised TIP Scoring Criteria. Van Chesnut seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business/Updates

Bruce Temple noted that NHDOT Project #13333 (Pavement Rehabilitation and Safety Improvements on NH 12/103 from the Vermont State Line to Redwater Brook) was formerly in the Ten Year Plan, and was removed in the last round of cuts. Bruce Temple noted that this project remains a high priority for the City of Claremont, and should be given strong consideration for inclusion in the Ten Year Plan or Economic Stimulus Program.

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for February 10, 2009 from 5:00 to 6:30 PM at the Lebanon Senior Center.

Bruce Temple moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM. Dave Edkins seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.