

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2020

4:00-5:00 PM

UVLSRPC Offices

10 Water Street, Suite 225

Lebanon, NH 03766

Members Present: Van Chesnut (Advance Transit, Chair), Dick Jones (Lyme, Vice Chair), Rob Taylor (Enfield), Scott Osgood (Claremont), Peter Kulbacki (Hanover), David Kidder (New London), Bethany Fleishman (Vital Communities, UV Transportation Management Association)

Partner Organizations: William Rose (NHDOT)

Staff Present: Meghan Butts (Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, UVLSRPC), Alex Belenz (UVLSRPC)

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Van Chesnut called the meeting to order at 4:00PM. During introductions, Alex Belenz introduced himself as the newest employee of UVLSRPC and will be spending time working on transportation planning.

II. Action on Minutes from November 12, 2019

Dick Jones moved to approve the minutes and Rob Taylor seconded the motions. Peter Kulbacki sustained. The motion was approved 6-0-1.

III. Ten Year Plan Update

Meghan Butts reported the most recent update from NHDOT regarding the Ten Year Plan. The plan is expected back from the Governor in the next week to continue along in the process. The State has proposed to bond all State-aid bridge projects so that all within the Ten Year Plan would be completed by 2024 to avoid inflationary costs in the outer years. NHDOT is working with Cambridge Systematics to do additions revenue research to guide a future funding strategy. NHDOT completed a survey throughout the Ten Year Plan process and is now providing access to the survey data to Regional Planning Commissions. NHDOT is planning to reconvene the Transportation Planners Collaborative Committee to discuss the Ten Year Plan process successes and failures and a strategy for the next round. UVLSRPC will be at this meeting.

During discussion, Van Chesnut shared with the Committee the results of the Congestion Management Air Quality (CMAQ) program in relation to Advance Transit's application that would support the Red Line during construction throughout Lebanon and West Lebanon. This project was not chosen for funding

based on eligibility and the potential sustainability of the project. Van Chesnut reminded the Committee that NHDOT has proposed to move a portion of State CMAQ funding to Federal Transit Association funding streams that could benefit transit and potentially the Red Line project.

William Rose arrived at 4:15. William Rose further updated the Committee on the Ten Year Plan process. Scott Osgood asked whether or not NHDOT held a list of projects that have been proposed for funding but have not been funding such as Charlestown Road in Claremont. Meghan Butts reported that the Regional Planning Commission keeps a list of all proposed projects including projects that have not been sent to NHDOT. William Rose reported that NHDOT has a list of formally proposed projects from the Regional Planning Commissions and NHDOT also has a list of potential projects that came out of the Ten Year Plan hearing process. William Rose says NHDOT is aware of the projects and keeps this list in the hope that funding will become available.

IV. Regional Corridor Transportation Plan

Meghan Butts provided the Committee with an update on the Regional Corridor Transportation Plan. UVLSRPC staff met with municipal staff in Lebanon and Hanover to discuss the corridor planning process and various concerns along the Route 120 North corridor. Both Lebanon and Hanover staff provided feedback on the process and plans for public outreach. These meetings led to UVLSRPC being involved in more localized meetings along the corridor. UVLSRPC staff reviewed past studies on the corridor and began to list project ideas for future TAC review. UVLSRPC staff updated maps and outreach materials to reflect the changes requested from municipal staff.

Next steps include developing an interactive survey and map. The goal of the survey is to gather information on public priorities, wants, and concerns. This data will be used to inform project ideas and TAC scoring priorities. Once survey is completed and launched, UVLSRPC will plan a public outreach event for the Route 120N Corridor. This event is estimated to be held in February 2020.

UVLSRPC plans to continue the planning process by beginning work on another corridor. Staff and TAC suggested this next focus be centered in the Claremont area (Route 12A, Route 103/11, Route 120S). Scott Osgood will connect with Meghan on which corridor Claremont prefers to start with.

Meghan reported that each of the 8 corridors will go through the planning process with the final report scheduled to be released in June of 2021.

V. Updates

- a. **NHDOT** –William Rose provided updated from NHDOT. The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment 3 is out and in preparation for the next Amendment, NHDOT is planning to include all approved CMAQ projects from this round. The hope is that this will allow CMAQ project to begin sooner and allow for money to be spent. William Rose reported that there is a Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) Committee that is working on a metric for analysis of traffic stress to be used as a scoring metric during the next Ten Year Plan.
- b. **UVLSRPC** – UVLSRPC is planning for field data collection and future transportation projects. If a community is interested in a transportation related service they can contact Meghan Butts.
- c. **TAC Member** –
 - i. Peter Kulbacki (Hanover) reported that Hanover has completed 14 midblock crossing projects with rapid flashing beacons and lights that light up the crosswalk. The next effort will be to work with Dartmouth College to add this technology along Dartmouth College owned roadways.
 - ii. Rob Taylor (Enfield) reported the high cost of winter maintenance in small communities like Enfield and his hometown Plainfield. There are some policy suggestions that could counteract public complaint while also keeping costs sustainable and Town staff safe.

VI. Other Business

Meghan Butts reported that NHDOT's Planning Department has been tasked with proposing recommendations for changes in the Local Public Agency (LPA) process. The Committee discussed the challenges communities face with this process because it has the potential to be more costly and delayed for smaller communities. The Committee discussed that all parties involved in the LPA process (municipality, NHDOT, contractors) all have roles to play that are dependent on one another which can cause a project to be at risk of falling behind. William Rose reported that NHDOT is looking for specific recommendations for changes. Meghan Butts requested that all recommendations be sent to her by Friday January 17th.

VII. Adjourn

Dick Jones motioned to adjourn at 5:00. Peter Kulbacki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.