

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

April 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes  
Lebanon Senior Center- Lebanon, NH

**Attendees:**

Dave Edkins, Charlestown  
Barbara Brill, CATS  
Dick Jones, Lyme  
Dean Eastman, NHDOT  
Nate Miller, UVLSRPC

**Introductions and Approval of February 9th Meeting Minutes**

Following introductions, Dick Jones moved that the minutes of February 9th be accepted as submitted. Dave Edkins seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Reconstruction of NH Route 12 in Charlestown and Walpole**

N. Miller presented the preferred design alternative for the reconstruction of NH Route 12 in Charlestown and Walpole, as developed through the Context Sensitive Solutions process. The NHDOT is currently scheduling a formal Public Hearing in July to initiate their final design and right-of-way acquisition processes for the project. Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2011 and continue through 2013.

N. Miller reported that, in mid-March, there was a fatality on this stretch of Route 12. The accident was a run-off-road incident, and the vehicle entered the Connecticut River. This was the second fatality on this section of Route 12 in the past year.

TAC members reviewed the preferred alternative and discussed potential interim safety improvements that could be implemented before the reconstruction project begins, including guardrail improvements. The TAC advised N. Miller to continue coordinating with NHDOT to evaluate interim safety improvements.

**Ten-Year Plan Update**

N. Miller reported that the 2011-2020 Ten-Year Plan is currently being considered by the state legislature. The NH House of Representatives has crafted a bill that adopts the Ten-Year Plan and provides directives to state agencies (e.g. NHDOT) implementing the plan. One of the directives reads as follows:

*“Interstate Route-93 Priority. Pursuant to 2000, 273:1 as amended by 2008, 329:1, the general court reiterates that the state of New Hampshire’s top priority is the reconstruction and widening of Interstate Route 93 from the Massachusetts border to Interstate Route 293 in Manchester to 4 lanes in both directions within the time frame of New Hampshire Ten-Year State Transportation Improvement Plan. The general court further understands that the projected revenue is presently inadequate to fully fund the entire project, specifically, capacity improvements north of exit 3. To the extent alternative or additional funding becomes available for the reconstruction and widening of Interstate Route 93 from Salem to Manchester, the expenditure of such funds is hereby authorized.”*

TAC members expressed concern that this directive will cause further delays in funding important highway and bridge projects in not only the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region, but all rural areas of the state.

## **HIRE ACT**

N. Miller reported that the Jobs for “Main Street Act” discussed at previous TAC meetings was significantly amended and passed as the “Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act.” The HIRE Act, as passed, does not include the significant investments in transportation infrastructure proposed in the Jobs for Main Street Act. However, the HIRE Act did extend the provisions of SAFETEA-LU to the end of the year. The HIRE ACT also ensures the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund until FY 2011.

## **Program Updates**

### Transportation Enhancement Program

N. Miller reported that the Transportation Enhancement Advisory Committee has completed their interviews of TE applicants, and final TE funding decisions are forthcoming.

### Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program

N. Miller reported that, as expected, there were no CMAQ applications originating from or directly impacting the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee region in this round.

### Highway Safety Improvement Program

N. Miller reported that the Route 10/East Thetford Road Working Group will be meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> to decide on a preferred design alternative for the intersection.

N. Miller reported that construction of the safety improvements at Crockett’s Corner in New London (NH 11 and NH 114) is ongoing and should be completed in early summer.

## **Receipts and Expenditures of Local Governments Reporting**

N. Miller reported that UVLSRPC will be assisting the New Hampshire Department of Transportation with collecting data on the receipts and expenditures of local governments, noting that this effort is a requirement of the Federal Highway Administration.

N. Miller distributed FHWA Form 536 for TAC members to review. N. Miller reported that seven communities in the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee region will be selected to participate in this effort (based on population). The Town of Newbury was the first community to complete the form, and the Town of Lyme is scheduled to complete the form during the week of April 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **Other Business/Updates**

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