

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

August 11, 2009 Meeting Minutes  
Lebanon Senior Center- Lebanon, NH

**Attendees:**

Van Chesnut, Chair, Advance Transit  
Dean Eastman, NHDOT  
Nate Miller, UVLSRPC  
Ed Tinker, Claremont  
Richard Lee, New London  
Dick Jones, Lyme  
Mike Lavalla, Lebanon  
Dave Edkins, Charlestown  
Barbara Brill, CATS

**Review and Approval of July 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**

Following introductions, Mike Lavalla moved that the minutes of July 14<sup>th</sup> be accepted as submitted. Van Chesnut seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with Dave Edkins, Barbara Brill, and Dick Jones abstaining due to absence.

**Transportation Enhancement Program Update**

Nate Miller distributed the schedule for upcoming NHDOT Municipally Managed Transportation Enhancement (TE) Project Workshops, noting that if a community intends to apply for TE funding in this round, participation at one of the workshops is mandatory. Nate Miller advised that the upcoming workshop in Newbury, on August 13<sup>th</sup>, is the most convenient location for the region. If a community is unable to send a representative to the Newbury workshop, the last opportunity to participate will be on August 19<sup>th</sup> in Concord.

**Overview of Safe Routes to School Round 4**

Nate Miller announced that NHDOT will begin soliciting projects for Round 4 of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program in early September, and distributed the Round 4 Application Guidelines and Scoring Criteria to TAC members for review. Applications will be due to NHDOT and the Regional Planning Commission in early November. There are a number of changes to the program in this round, including an increase in the cap for infrastructure projects from \$100,000 to \$250,000 if the community has completed a SRTS Travel Plan. Nate Miller advised communities to take a careful look at preliminary engineering and right-of-way costs when preparing Safe Routes to School infrastructure applications, as plans must be stamped by a Professional Engineer. Communities should also budget for any necessary environmental reviews (e.g. archaeology, historic resources, and cultural resources) as part of the SRTS project planning process.

**Ongoing Projects/Planning Processes**

Nate Miller updated the TAC on a number of ongoing projects and planning processes occurring around the region.

### Ten-Year Plan/GACIT Process

Nate Miller reported that GACIT Hearings are scheduled in Claremont and Lebanon on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The Claremont GACIT Hearing will begin at 8:00 AM and the Lebanon GACIT Hearing will begin at 11:00 AM. Both hearings will be facilitated by Councilor Ray Burton. There will also be a GACIT Hearing in Newbury in late October. The date for the hearing has not yet been finalized, but Nate Miller will provide the TAC with additional details as they come available.

Nate Miller noted that the purpose of the GACIT Hearing process is to receive public comment on the draft 2011-2020 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. While no new projects have been added to the plan due to financial constraints, the Reconstruction of Mechanic Street in Lebanon was moved from 2016 to 2013 upon the TAC's recommendation.

### Upper Valley Intermodal Transportation Facility

Nate Miller provided an overview of the ongoing Upper Valley Intermodal Transportation Facility planning process, noting that the Project Advisory Committee kickoff meeting was held on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The facility will:

- Provide a new passenger terminal for Intercity Bus Service
- Provide connections to local fixed-route transit services
- Provide connections to demand response human service transportation providers
- Provide significant park-and-ride capacity
- Provide infrastructure to facilitate bicycle and pedestrian connections

Van Chesnut noted that through this planning process, potential sites for the facility will be analyzed, and a preferred site will be recommended to NHDOT for implementation. This work is being funded by a congressional appropriation secured by Congressman Paul Hodes in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008.

### 2009 Regional Traffic Counting Program

Nate Miller provided an overview of the 2009 Regional Traffic Counting Program, and distributed a listing of the 112 locations that will be counted by UVLSRPC in 2009. Nate Miller continued, explaining that the entire 27-town region gets covered on a three-year cycle. This year, UVLSRPC will be counting traffic in 11 communities (Claremont, Cornish, Croydon, Dorchester, Enfield, Grafton, Grantham, Hanover, Lebanon, Lyme, and Springfield). Nate Miller provided a demonstration of how the traffic counting equipment and software works, using a recent count on Mt. Support Road in Lebanon as an example.

Historic traffic data collected by UVLSRPC can be accessed at the NHDOT website: <http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/operations/traffic/tvr/index.htm>

Current traffic data collected by UVLSRPC can be accessed by contacting Nate Miller at (603) 448-1680.

### Claremont Truck Route Plan

Nate Miller provided an overview of UVLSRPC's efforts to assist the City of Claremont in developing a Truck Route Plan. The Commission spent much of the spring collecting data about truck travel in the city, including a series of vehicle classification traffic counts and an origin-destination survey. A series of truck route alternatives have now been developed:

- Ainsworth Rd- River Rd- Plains Rd
- West Pleasant St- Mulberry St- Sullivan St- Union St- Main St- Elm St
- Pleasant S- Summer St- Broad St
- Pleasant St- South St- Broad St
- Maple Ave- Pleasant St- South St- New Bridge to Washington St

The alternatives are intended to provide a way for truck traffic to travel through the city without passing through Opera House Square. A public hearing to receive comment on the truck route alternatives is scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup> in Claremont.

#### Slayton Hill Road/Alice Peck Day Transit Access Project

Nate Miller reported that he has been leading a process to: 1) improve pedestrian safety at the Slayton Hill Road railroad underpass; and 2) improve public transit access to Alice Peck Day Hospital. A kickoff meeting was held on July 30<sup>th</sup>, with more than 50 people attending. Nate Miller distributed a list of 25 alternatives for improving pedestrian safety at the underpass and improving public transit access.

Nate Miller noted that he would keep the TAC informed about this project as it develops.

#### Reconstruction of NH Route 12 in Charlestown

Nate Miller provided an overview of this project, which involves the reconstruction of a three-mile stretch of Route 12 in South Charlestown and North Walpole. The road is currently sandwiched between the Connecticut River and the active New England Central Railroad line.

Nate Miller noted that he is facilitating a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process between NHDOT and the community to select a design alternative for the project. Nine alternatives have been developed, and the Project Advisory Committee began screening alternatives on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Nate Miller advised that a preferred alternative would be selected sometime in the early fall.

#### Implementation of Regional Park-and-Ride Priorities

Nate Miller reported that work is ongoing to implement the TAC's Regional Park-and-Ride priorities. Recently the Upper Valley Transportation Management Association appointed a sub-committee for this purpose. Initial emphasis will be on three locations: the Community Center/Huse Park site in Enfield, the Route 11/12 site in Charlestown, and the expansion of the existing park-and-ride facility in Lyme.

#### **Other Business**

- Nate Miller noted that the TAC's schedule for the rest of the year is set:
  - September- No TAC Meeting
  - October- TE Applicant Presentations
  - November- TE Project Prioritization
  - December- SRTS Project Prioritization

Dick Jones requested that Nate Miller e-mail the TAC schedule to members. The TAC confirmed their next meeting for October 13th at 5:00 PM at the Lebanon Senior Center. Dick Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM. Dave Edkins seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.