

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

June 8, 2010 Meeting Minutes
UVLSRPC Offices- Lebanon, NH

Attendees:

Van Chesnut, Chair, Advance Transit
Dave Edkins, Charlestown
Dick Jones, Lyme
William Rose, NHDOT
Nate Miller, UVLSRPC

Tour of New UVLSRPC Offices

Prior to the meeting, Nate Miller led TAC members on a tour of the new UVLSRPC offices.

Acceptance of April 13th Meeting Minutes

Following introductions, Dick Jones moved that the minutes of February 9th be accepted with one minor correction. Dave Edkins seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Overview of 2010 Traffic Counting Program

Nate Miller distributed copies of the 2010 regional traffic counting program. Commission staff will conduct approximately 110 counts this year in 17 different communities. Nate Miller noted that the entire region is covered on a rotating three-year cycle, so the count program for this year is essentially the same as in 2007. Communities that do not have traffic counts scheduled for this year will be counted in either 2011 or 2012.

Dave Edkins asked how the count locations were originally selected. Nate Miller advised that many of the locations were selected to meet NHDOT's federal reporting requirements, including the Federal Highway Administration's Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS).

Dick Jones asked if other locations could be added to NHDOT's three-year rotation of count locations. Nate Miller advised that, if there is a location of special interest to a town, he could make a request to NHDOT. This was done recently for a location on Cold Pond Road in the Town of Acworth. Dick Jones requested that a new count station be established on Dorchester Road in Lyme at the Grant Brook Bridge immediately west of Franklin Hill Road. Nate Miller will follow-up on this request with NHDOT.

Transportation Enhancement Program Update

Nate Miller updated the TAC on Transportation Enhancement project funding decisions. The funding decisions were recently announced, but the process used to make those funding decisions varied significantly from what was originally envisioned. The regional planning commission and NHDOT staff review processes took place exactly as envisioned, but rather than using those scores/rankings as a direct factor in the statewide funding decisions, the TE Statewide Advisory Committee "took the scores under advisement" and developed their own project priorities from scratch.

Nate Miller distributed the TE Statewide Advisory Committee's project scores, and some TAC members commented that the decision making process was political. Nate Miller noted that TE projects in New London and Lebanon were ultimately funded, and William Rose advised that these funding decisions were an indication that the TAC process was taken seriously at the Statewide Advisory Committee level.

Van Chesnut asked if the TAC should write a letter to voice concerns about the TE decision making process. Nate Miller advised that the New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions (NHARPC) was already drafting a letter to this effect.

Claremont-Upper Valley Transit Service

Nate Miller reported that the Commission's application for funding to plan for a new public transportation service between Claremont and the Upper Valley was successful. The funding will allow the Commission to organize a Steering Committee to oversee the project, and hire a transit design consultant to develop a service design, operations plan, and financial plan for the new service.

The new service would be operated by Community Alliance Transportation Services (CATS) and would provide service between Claremont and the Upper Valley via NH Route 120. In addition to serving the two labor markets, the route would provide service to Cornish Flat and Meriden Village.

Nate Miller reported that the funding would be on the Governor and Council agenda for approval in July, and a RFP for consulting services would be advertised later this summer.

Ongoing Project Updates

Route 10/East Thetford Road in Lyme

Nate Miller reported that the project working group has reached consensus on a preferred design alternative for the Route 10/East Thetford Road intersection. An Informational Meeting is scheduled for June 16th to receive feedback on the design from the general public.

Route 12 Reconstruction

Nate Miller reported that the Public Hearing for the Reconstruction of NH Route 12 in Charlestown and Walpole will take place in mid-to-late July.

Other Business/Updates

There will be no TAC meeting in the month of July. The TAC will reconvene on the second Tuesday in August at 5:00 PM.

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