

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

April 10, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Claremont Savings Bank (Community Room)
145 Broad Street
Claremont, NH 03743

Attendees:

Van Chesnut, Chair, Advance Transit
Dick Jones, Lyme
James Short, Claremont
Andrew Gast-Bray, Lebanon
Steve Neill, Charlestown
Dave Edkins, Charlestown
Paul Coats, Lebanon
Nicole Cormen, Lebanon
Rep. John Cloutier, Claremont
Sharon Francis, Charlestown
Bernie Folta, Claremont
John Tuthill, Acworth
Chief Alex Scott, Claremont Police

Dan Peterson, Goshen
Guy Santagate, Claremont
Jim Feleen, Claremont
Marty Davis, Claremont
Dan O'Neill, Newport
Bill Binder, Claremont E-Ticker News
Rod Wendt, UVIP
Patricia Higgins, UVTMA
Alan Hanscom, NHDOT
Chris Clement, NHDOT Commissioner
Nate Miller, UVLSRPC
Christine Walker, UVLSRPC

Introduction/Call to Order:

TAC Chairman Van Chesnut called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Van Chesnut asked for the consent of the Committee to table normal business to the TAC's next meeting. All TAC members present consented to tabling normal business.

Presentation by NHDOT Commissioner Chris Clement:

Van Chesnut welcomed NHDOT Commissioner Chris Clement on behalf of the UVLSRPC Transportation Advisory Committee.

Van Chesnut asked for the consent of the Committee to table normal business to the next TAC meeting. All TAC members present consented to tabling normal business.

Commissioner Clement provided an overview of New Hampshire's transportation system and its current challenges, highlighting the following:

- Freight volumes are projected to nearly double in New Hampshire over the next 50 years;
- Funding to maintain unnumbered state roads continues to be a challenge, as the NHDOT is responsible for maintaining nearly 1,000 miles of unnumbered roads.
- NHDOT is also planning for the future of New Hampshire's shipping ports, and the state has the goal of accommodating the next generation of shipping vessels (larger vessels will result from the forthcoming expansion of the Panama Canal);

- The 2013-2022 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan is currently being considered by the State Legislature. Commissioner Clement expressed his strong support for the region's top project priority, the Reconstruction of NH Route 12 in Charlestown and Walpole.
- NHDOT has developed a "Balanced Scorecard" that sets goals for the state's transportation system and the operation of the Department. Each goal is tied to specific performance measures. Commissioner Clement recommended that TAC members review the Balanced Scorecard here: (http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/commissioner/documents/2011bsc_executivesummarylr.pdf);
- Bond rates are currently below 1.5 percent, and the NHDOT has recently refinanced two bonds. The refinancing will save the State of New Hampshire nearly 9 million dollars.
- The NHDOT is committed to developing a multi-modal transportation system that includes pedestrian, cyclist, marine, air, rail, and public transportation infrastructure.
- The State's top transportation project priority is the expansion of Interstate 93 from Salem to Manchester.

Van Chesnut opened the meeting to questions and comments from the public. Questions and comments included:

- Dave Edkins, Steve Neill, and Sharon Francis expressed strong support for the forthcoming Reconstruction of NH Route 12 in Charlestown and Walpole;
- Dan Peterson expressed concern over the current condition of NH Route 10 in Goshen and Lempster, and thanked NHDOT District II Engineer Alan Hanscom for his crew's recent assistance in extinguishing a brush fire.
- Dan O'Neill and Alex Scott expressed concern over recent bicycle/pedestrian fatalities in Sullivan County, and noted their strong support for the NH PASS (Pass All Cyclists Slowly and Safely) initiative promoting RSA 265:143-a;
- Dick Jones expressed concern about the lack of funding for maintenance of unnumbered state roads in rural communities.
- Rod Wendt noted the United Valley Interfaith Project's goal of expanding public transportation services in the region, particularly to Alice Peck Day Hospital.
- Patricia Higgins noted the Upper Valley Transportation Management Association's goal of reducing single-occupant vehicle travel in the region;
- Rep. John Cloutier reported that the NH House of Representatives has approved the Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan with a number of amendments. The Ten-Year Plan is now being considered by the NH Senate.
- Bernie Folta asked about the average cost to rehabilitate and repave one mile of two-lane state highway. Alan Hanscom advised that the current cost ranges from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. Guy Santagate noted that in urban areas with water/sewer infrastructure, the cost increases to \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 per mile.

Van Chesnut thanked Commissioner Clement for his presentation on behalf of the UVLSRPC Transportation Advisory Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.