



Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
Regional Planning Commission

December 21, 2009

Mr. John Corrigan
New Hampshire Department of Transportation
Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance
7 Hazen Drive
P.O. Box 483
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0483

**SUBJECT: Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Transportation Advisory Committee
(TAC) Prioritization of Round 4 Safe Routes to School Grant
Applications**

Dear Mr. Corrigan:

Please be advised that the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) met on December 8, 2009 to score and prioritize the Round 4 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) applications received from communities in the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee region. The applications evaluated were:

- **Town of Hanover-** SRTS Travel Plan (\$18,050)
- **City of Lebanon-** Infrastructure/Non-infrastructure (\$56,560)

It should be noted that the Town of Hanover's proposal was received under the "rolling" deadline for SRTS Travel Plan applications. However, due to coincident timing, the TAC was able to evaluate this application concurrently with the City of Lebanon's Round 4 Infrastructure/Non-infrastructure application.

TAC SCORING SUMMARY:

The TAC scored the Town of Hanover's application under the 50-point scoring system for SRTS Travel Plan projects.

Scoring Criteria	Maximum Points	Town of Hanover
Inclusive SRTS Task Force	10	9
Evaluation	10	10
Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement	10	9
Quality of Budget	10	8
Potential Infrastructure Projects	10	10
Total	50	46

The TAC scored the City of Lebanon's application under the 100-point scoring system for SRTS Infrastructure/Non-Infrastructure projects.

Scoring Criteria	Maximum Points	City of Lebanon
Comprehensive SRTS Travel Plan	20	20
Surveys/Site Visits	5	5
Education	10	10
Encouragement	10	10
Enforcement	10	10
Engineering	20	18
Inclusive SRTS Task Force	5	4
Documented Municipal and School Support	5	5
Parental Support	5	4
Educational Community Support (e.g. PTA/PTO)	5	3
Support from Biking/Walking Advocacy Groups	5	5
Disadvantaged Communities	20 (bonus)	6
Total	100 (+20 bonus)	100

TAC COMMENTS ON THE APPLICATIONS:

Town of Hanover

The TAC commended the Town of Hanover for its commitment to School Travel Planning, noting that SRTS infrastructure funding requests must be supported by a strong, defensible SRTS Travel Plan. The TAC expressed optimism that the Safe Routes to School program would be successful in the Town of Hanover because of the town's size, existing development patterns, and strong partnership between town and school officials.

City of Lebanon

The TAC was impressed by the City of Lebanon's emphasis on implementing a Safe Routes to School program that was not entirely focused on engineering new infrastructure. Rather, Lebanon's program presents numerous, innovative ideas in the fields of education, encouragement, and enforcement. The TAC noted that, too often, these aspects of the program are forgotten or given short shrift in SRTS funding applications.

In their scoring of the City of Lebanon's application, the TAC awarded 6 points to the City of Lebanon under the "Disadvantaged Communities" criterion. The TAC awarded these points based on the special strategies delineated in the SRTS Travel Plan for encouraging children living at the Romano Circle subsidized housing development in West Lebanon to walk and bike to school. Currently, approximately 35 elementary school students live at Romano Circle. However, as members of the TAC noted, the

Romano Circle housing development is being expanded and additional elementary school students will likely move into the development, making the implementation of the City's SRTS encouragement strategies especially timely and pertinent.

In reviewing the projects, the TAC found that both applications are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Safe Routes to School Program. Moreover, the TAC commented that the applications are well-written and well-researched. **The TAC strongly recommends that both applications receive full funding.**

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please feel free to give me a call at (603) 448-1680 or e-mail me at nmiller@uvlsrpc.org.

Respectfully Submitted,



Nathan Miller, AICP
Planner

CC: William Watson, NHDOT
Van Chesnut, Chair, UVLSRPC TAC
Jonathan Edwards, Town of Hanover
David Brooks, City of Lebanon
Christine Walker, UVLSRPC