

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

October 9, 2012 Meeting Minutes
UVLSRPC Offices- Lebanon, NH

Attendees:

Van Chesnut, Chair, Advance Transit
Dick Jones, Lyme
George McCusker, Springfield
Barbara Brill, CATS
Clint Bean, Grantham
Ray Burton, NH Executive Council
Dean Eastman, NHDOT
Christine Walker, UVLSRPC
Nate Miller, UVLSRPC

Introduction/Call to Order:

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

Approval of August 14th Meeting Minutes:

Dick Jones moved to approve the minutes of August 14th as submitted. Van Chesnut seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Barbara Brill abstained due to absence.

Updates from NHDOT:

Dean Eastman reported that the NHDOT is waiting for administrative rules to be drafted and released for most MAP-21 programs. These rules come from the U.S. DOT and provide guidance to states related to the administration of transportation funding programs.

Discussion about Ten-Year Plan LEAN Process:

Nate Miller reported that he has been participating in a LEAN review to improve the Ten-Year Plan development process. LEAN reviews are often used in private sector industries (e.g. manufacturing) to create efficiencies/improvements in production processes. However, the same concepts can be applied to any "production process", and in this case, the technique is being applied to the process to develop the NH Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan.

Nate Miller noted that the Ten-Year Plan LEAN team includes representatives of the NHDOT Commissioner's Office, NHDOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance, NHDOT Bureau of Highway Design, NHDOT Maintenance Districts, and all nine regional planning commissions.

Nate Miller asked TAC members for suggestions about improving the Ten-Year Plan process, and advised that he would bring the suggestions forward to the LEAN team.

- Councilor Ray Burton advised that the local GACIT hearings are crucial for obtaining public input. Councilor Burton noted that current state law requires one hearing in each Executive Council District, but District 1 is large and diverse, and requires additional hearings to ensure that public input is received and documented.

- Dick Jones advised that local officials often do not know when, how, or why a state-managed project in their community has been delayed. When the Ten-Year Plan is released for public comment, posting the document on websites is not enough.
- Van Chesnut asked where the Ten-Year Plan stands in relation to current financial projections. Is it still a 25-Year Plan? Dean Eastman advised that the revisions to the Plan in the last two update cycles have helped to make the Ten-Year Plan a more realistic document, but the Plan is still overburdened in relation to current financial projections.
- Dick Jones advised that a Ten-Year Plan is a reasonable timeframe. Five years is too short and more than ten years would be an unrealistic wish list. Councilor Burton concurred, noting that ten years is a necessary timeframe for the plan.
- Van Chesnut advised that the two-year update cycle for the Ten-Year Plan is sufficient given the timing of New Hampshire's budget process.
- Van Chesnut advised that he sees the need for longer-term transit capital prioritization through the Ten-Year Plan process, but advised that FTA funding streams work differently than FHWA funding streams.
- Dick Jones noted that project cuts and delays should be summarized transparently in the Ten-Year Plan, just as additions of new projects are summarized transparently. Dick Jones noted that, due to funding constraints, NHDOT may need to begin a conversation about the necessity of maintaining some roads and bridges.

UVLSRPC Regional Plan Update- Public Outreach:

Nate Miller and Christine Walker provided an overview of the ongoing public outreach related to the development of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Plan. Commission staff has participated in a number of significant regional events (e.g. The Cornish Fair, Canaan Speedway Races, and Farmers Markets) over the past few months to solicit input.

One of the means of receiving input at these events is through a visual preference survey, where people are shown pictures of different types of transportation and transportation facilities and they indicate their preference. The results for each outreach event are summarized at: <http://regionalplan.uvlsrpc.org/events/>.

Nate Miller reported that UVLSRPC has also established an online forum (called the Forum on the Future) where people can share their ideas on an interactive map of the region. It has only recently been launched, but people are using it already and sharing great ideas. Nate Miller provided a live demonstration of the Forum on the Future, which is available at the following link: <http://regionalplan.uvlsrpc.org/collective-voice/>.

Project/Program Updates:

Nate Miller reported that Round 6 of the Safe Routes to School Program has been announced. Like the Transportation Enhancement and Scenic Byways Programs, letters of intent will be required to be eligible to apply. Letters of intent will be due to NHDOT and UVLSRPC by November 2nd.

Adjournment:

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