

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
Meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
September 10, 2013 Meeting Minutes
Carter Country Club- Lebanon, NH

Attendees:

Van Chesnut, Chair, Advance Transit
Dick Jones, Lyme
Mike Lavalla, Lebanon
Peter Kulbacki, Hanover
Nick Alexander, NHDOT
Nate Miller, UVLSRPC

Prior to the meeting, TAC members participated in a tour of the planned Mechanic Street Reconstruction and Mascoma River Greenway projects in Lebanon.

TAC Chairman Van Chesnut called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of June 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes:

Dick Jones moved to approve the minutes of June 11, 2013 as submitted. Mike Lavalla seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Updates from NHDOT:

Nick Alexander reported that the GACIT hearings to hear public feedback/comment on the draft 2015-2024 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan have started. The first two hearings were held on September 9th in Lebanon and Charlestown.

Nick Alexander reported that the draft Ten Year Plan assumes revenues of \$150 million per year for a total of \$1.5 billion over the ten year period versus \$1.7 billion in programmed projects over the ten year period. Thus, the draft 2015-2024 Ten Year Plan is over programmed by approximately \$200 million. However, NHDOT does not necessarily view this as an immediate problem, as some projects around the state will be delayed due to factors beyond NHDOT's control.

2015-2024 Ten-Year Plan Update:

Nate Miller distributed a summary of the 2015-2024 Ten-Year Plan projects in the UVLSRPC Region (summary is affixed to these minutes). Nate Miller highlighted the following:

- The proposed Exit 18 improvement project has been added to the Ten-Year Plan per the TAC's recommendation. The project is programmed for \$3.569 Million in 2023.
- The U.S. Route 4 safety improvement project in Enfield has been added to the Ten-Year Plan per the TAC's recommendation. The project is programmed for \$6.988 Million in 2024.
- The Interstate 89 bridges over Hardy Hill Road in Lebanon have been added to the Ten-Year Plan per the TAC's recommendation. The project is programmed for \$4.849 Million in 2020.
- The rehabilitation of the NH Route 12A Bridge over the Sugar River in Claremont has been added to the Ten-Year Plan. The project is programmed for \$5.79 Million in 2022.
- The rehabilitation of the Mascoma Street Bridge over Interstate 89 in Lebanon has been added to the Ten-Year Plan. The project is programmed for \$3.606 Million in 2021.

There were no deferrals of existing projects in the draft 2015-2024 Ten-Year Plan.

TAC members noted the improved process to develop the Ten-Year Plan has resulted in a much more accurate reflection of the region's transportation project priorities. TAC members commended the NHDOT and UVLSRPC staff for their implementation of the process improvements.

Dick Jones questioned the timeline for the Walpole-Charlestown Route 12 reconstruction project. The proposed timeline now shows construction starting in 2016 instead of 2015. Nate Miller noted that the goal is still to start construction in the late summer/fall of 2015, which is technically in fiscal year 2016.

Recap of September 9th GACIT Hearings:

Nate Miller provided a review of the GACIT Hearings in Charlestown and Lebanon, noting that there was good turnout at both meetings. There were approximately 40 people in Charlestown and 25 people in Lebanon.

In Charlestown, the hearing was co-chaired by Councilor Ray Burton and Councilor Colin Van Ostern. Discussion centered on the Route 12 reconstruction project in South Charlestown, and the Hinsdale-Brattleboro bridge project in the southwest corner of the state.

In Lebanon, the hearing was chaired by Councilor Ray Burton. Discussion centered on the Mechanic Street reconstruction project and the key red listed bridges in Lebanon (Route 4 over the Connecticut River, Route 4 over the Mascoma River, I-89 over the Connecticut River, and I-89 over Hardy Hill Road).

Nate Miller advised that in both hearings, there was a broad recognition that the state's transportation needs far outpace available resources. Elected officials at both hearings shared their ideas for alleviating this gap.

Updates from TAC Members:

Peter Kulbacki reported that the Hanover Mobility Hub is under design. The historic review process has started and there will be a public review of design alternatives soon.

Adjournment:

Peter Kulbacki moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. Dick Jones seconded and the motion passed unanimously.