

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

September 13, 2011 Meeting Minutes

UVLSRPC Offices- Lebanon, NH

Minutes accepted October 11, 2011

Attendees:

Van Chesnut, Chair

Dick Jones, Lyme

Mike Lavalla, Lebanon

Bruce Temple, Claremont

Dean Eastman, NHDOT

Nate Miller, UVLSRPC

Acceptance of August 9th Meeting Minutes

Following introductions, Mike Lavalla moved that the minutes of August 9th be accepted as submitted. Dick Jones seconded and the motion passed with Bruce Temple abstaining due to absence.

TAC Work Session- 2013-2022 Draft Ten-Year Plan Review

Fiscal Constraint Assumptions

TAC members noted that the draft 2013-2022 Ten-Year Plan is fiscally constrained at approximately \$120 million per year. All revenues funding the Ten-Year Plan are federal, as the newly-adopted state budget eliminated hard (i.e. cash) state match funding. The NHDOT's federal funding assumptions fall in between the reauthorization plan proposed by Rep. Mica (which would see federal transportation funding cut to \$100 million per year for New Hampshire) and the reauthorization plan proposed by Sen. Boxer (which would essentially level-fund federal transportation funding at \$150 million per year for New Hampshire with retroactive inflationary adjustments).

Project Deferrals

TAC members noted that two of the six non-interstate projects in the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee region are proposed to be deferred. Those projects are: 1) The Reconstruction of NH Route 12 in Walpole and Charlestown (the UVLSRPC TAC's #1 project priority); and 2) The Reconstruction of Main Street (NH 114) in New London (the UVLSRPC TAC's #6 project priority).

Project Delays

TAC members noted the following project delays related to non-interstate projects:

- Lebanon- Bridge Replacement (U.S. Route 4) over Mascoma River and Improvements to Intersection of U.S. Route 4/NH Route 4A delayed from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015;

- Lebanon- Reconstruction of Mechanic Street from High Street to I-89 Ramps delayed from 2013 to 2016;
- Lyme/Thetford- Rehabilitation of Bridge over Connecticut River delayed from 2016 to 2017;
- Acworth- Bridge Replacement (NH 123A) over Bowers Brook delayed from 2018-2020;

TAC members noted the following project delays related to interstate projects:

- Lebanon/Hartford- Rehabilitation of Bridges (I-89) over Connecticut River delayed from 2017-2018 to 2019-2020;
- Enfield/Lebanon- Interstate Rehabilitation (I-89) from Exit 15 to Exit 17 delayed from 2012 to 2013;
- Lebanon- Interstate Rehabilitation (I-89) from Exit 17 to Exit 20 delayed from 2014-2015 to 2019-2020;
- Sutton/New London- Interstate Rehabilitation (I-89) from Exit 10 to Exit 11 delayed from 2015 to 2017-2018.

Program Transfers

TAC members noted that NHDOT is proposing discretionary transfers of half of the state's allocation for the Transportation Enhancement Program (TE), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ), and Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Federal rules allow states to transfer up to half of their allocations in these programs for "other needs" in the transportation network. As a result, the funding available to fund local TE, CMAQ, and HSIP projects would be effectively reduced by half.

GACIT Hearings in Charlestown and Lebanon

Nate Miller reported that the first two GACIT Hearings in the state were held in our region on September 12th, in Charlestown and Lebanon. Approximately 75 people attended the Charlestown hearing, and there was strong support for the project to reconstruct NH Route 12. Many in attendance requested an explanation from NHDOT as to why the project was cut, notwithstanding the road's fatal accident history and the project's status as the region's top priority.

Approximately 20 people attended the Lebanon hearing. Discussion centered on the proposed delay of the Reconstruction of Mechanic Street from 2013 to 2016. Many in attendance noted the need to coordinate the Ten-Year Plan project with the City's EPA-mandated Combined Sewer Overflow project scheduled to begin in 2013.

Development of Formal Comments to NHDOT on Draft Ten-Year Plan

TAC members discussed the need to provide formal comments to NHDOT regarding the draft 2013-2022 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. Nate Miller advised that the TAC's October meeting would be dedicated to drafting comments.

Bruce Temple advised that the City of Claremont has questions about the year-by-year funding allocation for the Reconstruction of North Street. Based on discussions with NHDOT staff, the funding may be split between FY 2012 (outside of the draft Ten-Year Plan) and FY 2013 (the first year of the draft Ten-Year Plan). Mike Lavalla noted that the City of Lebanon has similar concerns about the year-by-year funding allocation for the Replacement of the NH Route 12A Bridge in West Lebanon. Nate Miller advised that he would draft correspondence to NHDOT Project Manager C.R. Willeke requesting written clarification.

Other Business

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