

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

August 9, 2011 Meeting Minutes  
UVLSRPC Offices- Lebanon, NH  
Minutes Accepted September 13, 2011

**Attendees:**

Dick Jones, Lyme  
Richard Lee, New London  
Mike Lavalla, Lebanon  
Dave Edkins, Charlestown  
Dean Eastman, NHDOT  
Nate Miller, UVLSRPC

**Acceptance of June 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**

Following introductions, Mike Lavalla moved that the minutes of June 14th be accepted as submitted. Richard Lee seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Federal Transportation Reauthorization Update**

Nate Miller reported that there are two competing proposals for federal surface transportation reauthorization. The first is a proposal in the House of Representatives (Transportation and Infrastructure Committee) that would constrain transportation spending to Highway Trust Fund revenues. The House of Representatives proposal would have substantial impacts on federal transportation funding in New Hampshire. Under the House proposal, New Hampshire would see a federal funding cut of approximately 30%, which would be a reduction from approximately \$150 Million per year to approximately \$100 Million per year.

The Senate (Environment and Public Works Committee) reauthorization proposal would keep transportation funding close to level, with an inflationary adjustment resulting in a small increase in absolute dollars.

Notwithstanding the differences in the proposed funding levels, there are some common themes in both proposals. Both proposals would consolidate existing Federal Highway Administration programs. For instance, existing programs like Transportation Enhancement (TE), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Safe Routes to School (SRTS), and potentially Scenic Byways may be consolidated into a single program.

**Ten-Year Plan/GACIT Update**

Nate Miller reported on the Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) Hearing held on July 14<sup>th</sup> in Concord. NHDOT is trying to determine how to fiscally constrain the Ten-Year Plan. The debate is whether to use the House of Representatives' proposed reauthorization funding levels, or the Senate's proposed funding levels. However, because the newly-adopted state budget eliminated hard state match funding for the Ten-Year Plan, substantial project cuts are expected under either funding scenario. Federal transportation dollars are being matched with turnpike toll credits in New Hampshire for at least the next two years. As a result, the federal funding that previously constituted 80% of the Ten-Year Plan now constitutes 100% of the Ten-Year Plan. In addition, NHDOT will be direct billing some of their

staff time against that federal funding, which further reduces the amount available to construct Ten-Year Plan projects.

Nate Miller reported that NHDOT is considering “flexing” (discretionary transfer) half of the state’s allocation for the Transportation Enhancement (TE), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (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. In New Hampshire, the total allocation in these programs is approximately \$13 Million per year. Thus, NHDOT could “flex” approximately \$6.5 Million for use elsewhere, and as a result, the funding available to fund local TE, CMAQ, and HSIP projects would be effectively reduced by half. These “flexed” funds could be used, for instance, for bond debt service on the Interstate 93 expansion, which is estimated to be \$22 Million per year upon the completion of that project.

### **Project Updates**

Nate Miller provided updates on a number of ongoing transportation projects. The reconfiguration of NH Route 10/East Thetford Road in Lyme is complete, and the Regional Planning Commission has received positive comments on the project from local residents.

Nate Miller reported that NHDOT has scheduled a final design kickoff meeting for the Reconstruction of NH Route 12 in Charlestown and North Walpole. Nate Miller will be attending that meeting on September 1<sup>st</sup> in Concord.

### **Other Business**

Richard Lee moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM. Dave Edkins seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Notes**

The House of Representatives’ proposed transportation reauthorization outline is available at: <http://republicans.transportation.house.gov/singlepages.aspx/911>

The Senate’s proposed transportation reauthorization outline is available at: [http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=6faa8089-51ae-4e8a-ae20-4055294798f3](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=6faa8089-51ae-4e8a-ae20-4055294798f3)

The NHDOT presentation from the July 14<sup>th</sup> GACIT Hearing is available at: [http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/documents/GACIT\\_PPT\\_071411.pdf](http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/planning/typ/documents/GACIT_PPT_071411.pdf)