

**Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission  
Transportation Advisory Committee**

MEETING AGENDA

**March 10, 2020**

4:00-5:30 PM

UVLSRPC Offices

10 Water Street, Suite 225

Lebanon, NH 03766

**Members Present:** Dick Jones (Lyme, Vice Chair), Rob Taylor (Enfield), Scott Osgood (Claremont), Patricia Higgins (UVLSRPC Commissioner), Teri Palmer (Sullivan County Transportation), Liz Emerson (Charlestown), Jim Donison (Lebanon)

**Partner Organizations:**

**Staff Present:** Meghan Butts (Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, UVLSRPC), Alex Belenz (UVLSRPC)

**I. Call to Order**

*Dick Jones served as chair in Van Chesnut's absence. Dick called the meeting to order at 4:05PM.*

**II. Action on Minutes from January 14, 2020**

*Rob Taylor moved to approve the minutes and Liz emerson seconded the motions. The motion was approved unanimously.*

**III. Ten Year Plan Updates**

Alex Belenz briefed the Committee on meetings with NHDOT and other regional planning commissions to discuss the Ten Year Plan process and potential improvements. Alex gave a brief background into the whole Ten-Year Plan process and the basis for the discussion. The Committee discussed the NHDOT criteria for scoring proposed projects and discussed potential improvements to the criteria. The goal is make the criteria easier to use and more relevant to the purpose and need of proposed projects. The Committee discussed the importance of changes to the criteria to support rural regions. Alex requested any further comment be sent via email to UVLSRPC staff by March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**IV. Regional Corridor Transportation Plan**

Meghan Butts provided an update on the Regional Corridor Transportation Process. Meghan shared that both the 120N corridor public open house events were a success in Lebanon and Hanover. Meghan also shared that the feedback at these meetings and from the online survey have been helpful in learning more about the corridor from different perspectives. UVLSRPC staff are working to analyze this data.

Meghan reported that staff has completed municipal meetings along the 12A corridor in Lebanon, Plainfield, Claremont, and Charlestown. Public open house dates for the 12A corridor will be on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:30PM at the Claremont Visitors Center and on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00PM at the Kilton Library in West Lebanon.

Staff are beginning to schedule municipal meetings for the Route 4A corridor.

## **V. Updates**

a. **NHDOT** – No reports from NHDOT.

### **b. UVLSRPC**

-Alex reported on a recent meeting with the New England office of the Rails to Trail Conservancy. The Rails to Trails Conservancy is encouraging an effort to connect rail trails across New England. The Northern Rail Trail and Mascoma River Greenway are included in this plan. There is a disconnect between these trails and trails further north in Vermont. UVLSRPC staff are participating in meetings representing the region. Alex reported that there is a Bill in the House HR-5696 that is co-sponsored by NH Congressman Chris Pappas. The bill is called the Connecting America's Active Transportation System Act. In addition to funding local projects, the bill would help fund regional active transportation networks, which is a gap in current federal aid.

*The Committee discussed supporting the Bill. Rob Taylor motioned that the UVLSRPC TAC support HR-5696 with a letter of support. Patricia Higgins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Alex will send out more details on the Bill and will draft a letter of support.*

### **c. TAC Member**

Claremont – The City is working to add sections to the Sugar River Rail Trail by going behind buildings.

Lyme – Dick Jones reported that the Town of Lyme discussed what to do with old section of River Road now that there is a bypass at Town meeting. The Town voted to push the discussion off until next year on whether to turn the road into a Class VI or a municipal trail.

Enfield – Rob Taylor reported that the City of Lebanon considered discontinuing Class VI roads that connected to Enfield. Enfield opposed discontinuing Class VI roads. Lebanon voted to postpone hearing.

Sullivan County Transportation – Teri Palmer reported that she and Van Chesnut from Advance Transit went to a forum with multiple partners from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, and the Regional Planning Commissions on how to bridge the gap between funding requests. One suggestion is

to bring more information to public spaces such as libraries and post offices to reach more people.

Teri reported that the NH Transportation Committee has proposed some changes and suggestions on what to do regarding the proposed \$2.2 million shift from Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program to transit funding in the Ten Year Plan. Priority routes such as the Route 120 from Claremont to Lebanon and Hanover bus route were discussed.

Lebanon – Meghan Butts reported that electric vehicle charging stations will be coming to Lebanon through Volkswagen funding.

#### **VI. Other Business**

There was no other business at this time.

#### **VII. Adjourn**

*Rob Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting and Teri Palmer seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.*

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup>.

\*This meeting is open to the public. If you need special accommodations please give 48 hours notice and contact [mbutts@uvlsrpc.org](mailto:mbutts@uvlsrpc.org) or 603-448-1680.