

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2019

3:30-4:30 PM

UVLSRPC Offices

10 Water Street, Suite 225

Lebanon, NH 03766

Members Present: Van Chesnut (Advance Transit, Chair) Dick Jones (Vice Chair, Lyme), Scott Osgood (Claremont), Bethany Fleishman (Vital Communities), Ana Mejia (Vital Communities), Patricia Higgins (UVLSRPC Commissioner), Rob Taylor (Enfield), Peter Kulbacki (Hanover), Liz Strachan (NH Department of Environmental Services, NHDES)

Staff Present: Meghan Butts (UVLSRPC)

I. Call to Order

Van Chesnut called the meeting to order at 3:38 PM.

II. Action on Minutes from August 13, 2019

Dick Jones moved to approve the minutes with suggested amendment to add the word “transportation” to the Regional Corridor Plan to now read Regional Corridor Transportation Plan. Scott Osgood seconded the motion. Van Chesnut abstained. Motion passed 7-0-1.

III. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) – NHDES

Liz Strachan from NH DES gave a brief report regarding the next round of DERA funding. Requests for proposals will open in early October. The DERA program replaces older diesel engines with newer or alternative fuel engines. This includes heavy or medium on road vehicles, buses, off road vehicles such as backhoes and graders. See more information on the flyer [here](#) or on the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) website.

There was a brief discussion about Volkswagen funding as Volkswagen (VW) funding is used to match the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding of the DERA program. VW also has an Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure program that should have more details from NH Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) in the coming months. Fast Chargers on statewide corridors is a strong possibility. The State is using some VW money to upgrade Department of Transportation (DOT) vehicles. The State has also put in a Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) application for level 2 chargers in three locations outside of our region.

IV. Statewide Transit Assessment Update

Meghan gave a brief report about the Statewide Transit Assessment. There is potential that one of the two identified projects in the region: NH 120 from Claremont to Hanover, or I89 from Concord to Hanover could be put out to bid as a Tier 1 project. The full State Plan should be completed in the coming months.

V. CMAQ Updates

The Committee reviewed the two applications within the region for the CMAQ grant. Project A was the New London Park and Ride expansion to add 50 parking spaces. This application was put in by NHDOT. Project B was Advance Transit's request for funding the operational costs of adding a bus to the Red Route during the many State and City sponsored construction projects along the Route 4 Corridor over the next few years. The Committee chose to score the project based on the NH DOT scoring suggestion in the application. Both projects were identified as very important for the region and would both benefit the State in reducing emissions from vehicles on the roads. *Dick Jones made the motion that UVLSRPC recommend to NHDOT that the Advance Transit project is ranked number one and the New London Park and Ride is ranked number 2 for the region. Rob Taylor seconded the motion. Bethany Fleishman and Van Chesnut recused themselves from the vote. The motion passed 6-0-2.*

VI. Ten Year Plan and Governor's Advisory Council on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) Updates

The Committee shared experiences and feedback from the two GACIT hearings within the region. Some topics heard at the hearings were more funding for transit, more funding for the region, support for urban compact zones, and collaborating with communities with local projects in the same area to avoid digging the road up twice. Meghan will continue to work with NHDOT throughout this process and report back to TAC.

VII. Updates

a. NHDOT

b. UVLSRPC – Meghan reported that UVLSRPC has a new part-time employee, Kelly Dent. She has been working on gathering data for the Regional Corridor Transportation Plan to get the Route 120 N pilot project off the ground.

c. TAC Member

- Rob Taylor – reporting on his welcome into the Town of Enfield and various planning efforts and variances happening. Enfield will be starting a master Plan process and Lakeside Park along the rail trail is moving forward with Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) funding. Rob mentioned the busy traffic along Route 4 during commuting time and suggested a possible Enfield/Canaan Park and Ride for the Route 4 Corridor.

- Scott Osgood – updated the Committee on recent projects in Claremont including:

- Rail Trail/ Bobby Woodman Trail from Pleasant St to East St Sidewalk
- Safe Routes to School sidewalks at Belding St and Myrtle St
- Paving and sidewalks along Main St from the Opera House Sq to Union St
- Preliminary parking design for upgrades to roads and parking areas in the Pleasant St area

- Van Chesnut – Van reported that the Yellow Line was introduced into service in early August in Hartford, VT. Ridership is beginning to pick up as more people are becoming aware of the new service. Van reported that several buses have been upgraded this year. Van announced that AT was a grant recipient of \$3 million to purchase 3 electric buses and infrastructure upgrades.

VIII. Other Business

- Meghan encouraged everyone to stay for the State Bike Ped Plan meeting at 5PM.

IX. Adjourn

Dick Jones moved to adjourn. Peter Kulbacki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 4:50 PM.

*This meeting is open to the public. If you need special accommodations please give 48 hours notice and contact mbutts@uvlsrc.org or 603-448-1680.